

ad astra

Publius Cornelius Scipio
Africanus Major and
Hannibal Barca

1 アド・アストラ スキピオとハンニバル

カガノミハチ





TO REACH
GLORY AND
EMBRACE
VICTORY,

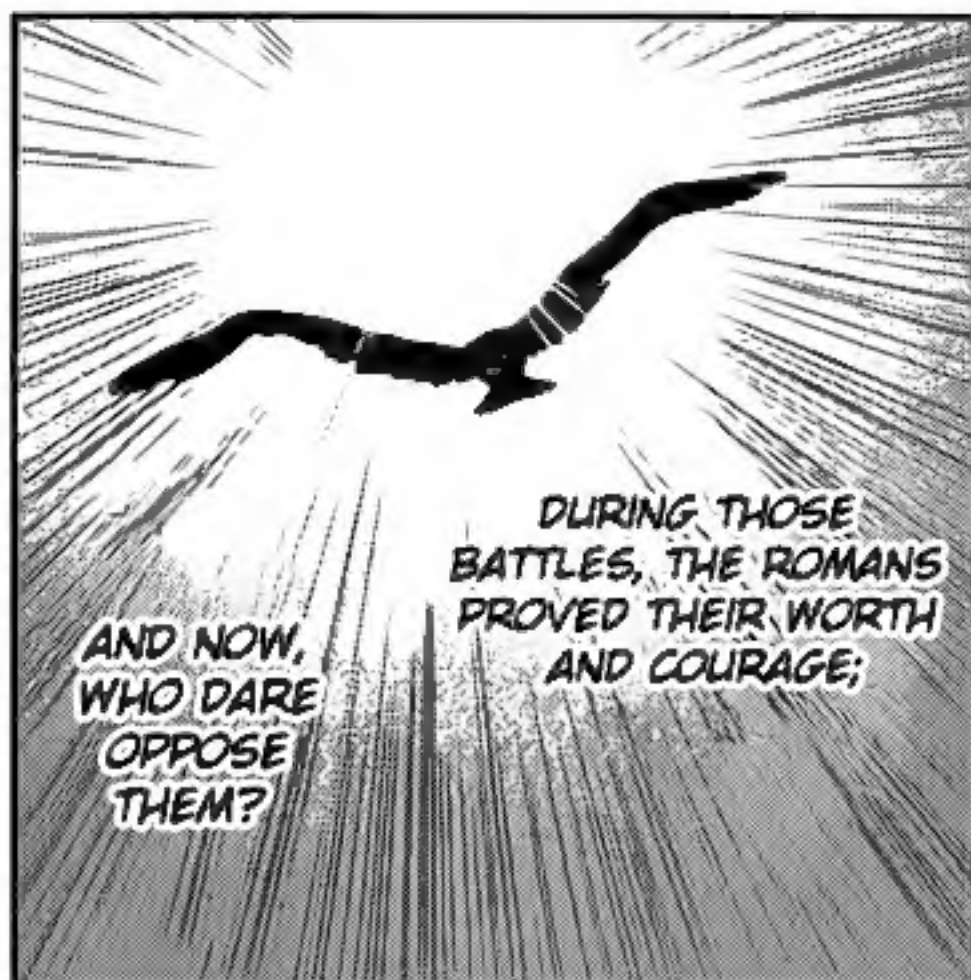
PER ASPERA
AD ASTRA

MAN IS CAPABLE OF
ENDURING PAIN AND
OVERCOMING DANGER.

T/N: LATIN EXP MEANS "THROUGH HARDSHIPS TO THE STARS".



THE ROMANS EXPERIENCED
GLORY AND TRIUMPH AFTER
MERCILESSLY ENGAGING IN
BATTLES ALL OVER THE
MEDITERRANEAN.

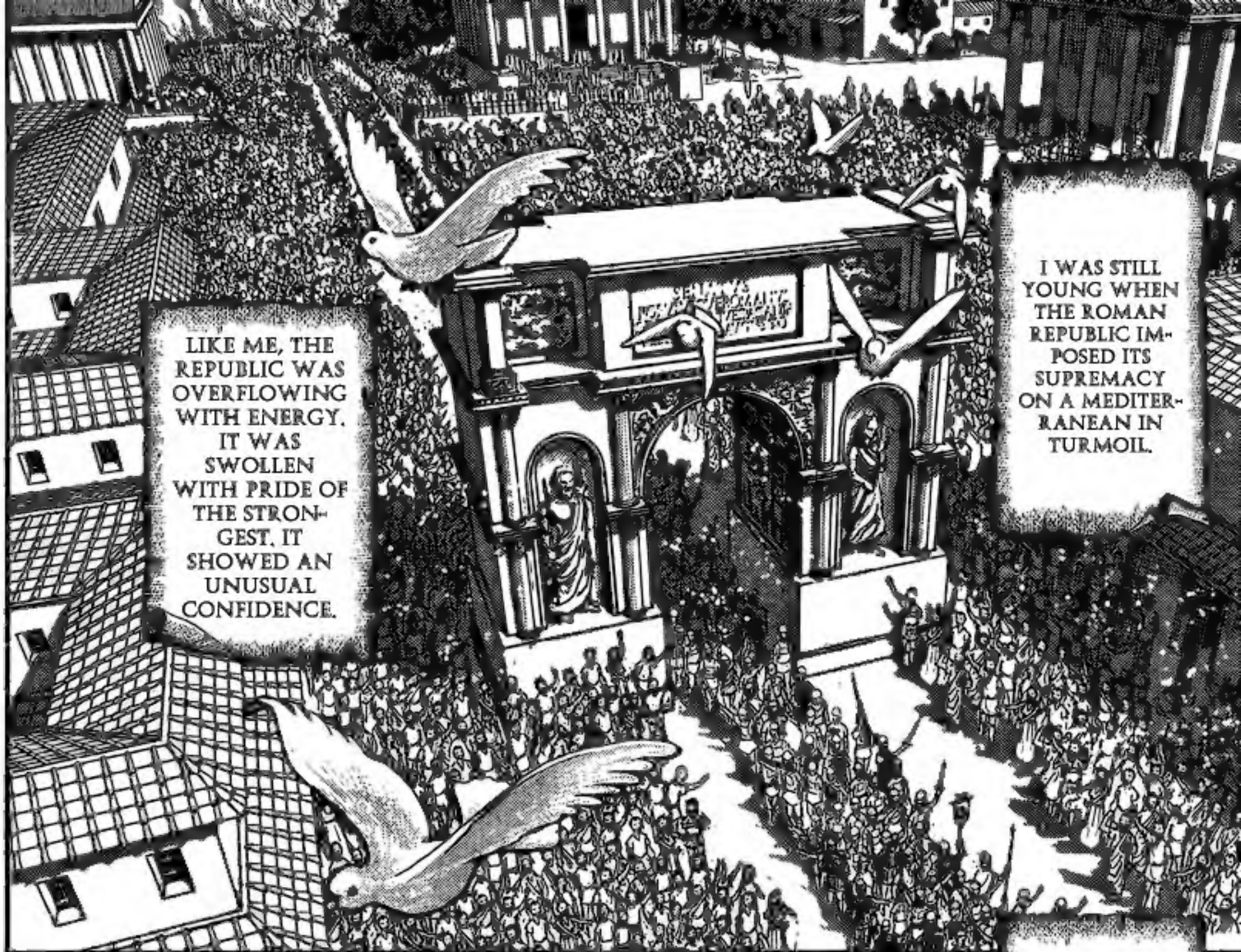


AND NOW,
WHO DARE
OPPOSE
THEM?

DURING THOSE
BATTLES, THE ROMANS
PROVED THEIR WORTH
AND COURAGE;



GLORY WOULD REIGN
OVER ROME FOR THE
NEXT THOUSAND YEARS...
WE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY
ON THE VERGE OF
WITNESSING A GREAT
EMPIRE!



LIKE ME, THE
REPUBLIC WAS
OVERFLOWING
WITH ENERGY.
IT WAS
SWOLLEN
WITH PRIDE OF
THE STRON-
GEST. IT
SHOWED AN
UNUSUAL
CONFIDENCE.

I WAS STILL
YOUNG WHEN
THE ROMAN
REPUBLIC IM-
POSED ITS
SUPREMACY
ON A MEDITER-
RANEAN IN
TURMOIL.



HOWEVER,
WHILE THE
ROMANS
WERE EN-
JOYING THEIR
VICTORIES,
THEY ALSO
HAD NO
IDEA THAT

CONQUERORS
ON THE ROAD
TO GLORY DO
NOT LOOK
BACK ON THE
PATH THEY
TREAD.

THE HUMILIATION OF
THE DEFEATED HAD GIVEN
BIRTH TO A MONSTER
THIRSTING FOR REVENGE.

ウルトラ漫画賞出身の気鋭が描く歴史巨編、堂々始動!!

カガノミハチ

同じ時代を
生きた
天才と怪物
の戦いの物語

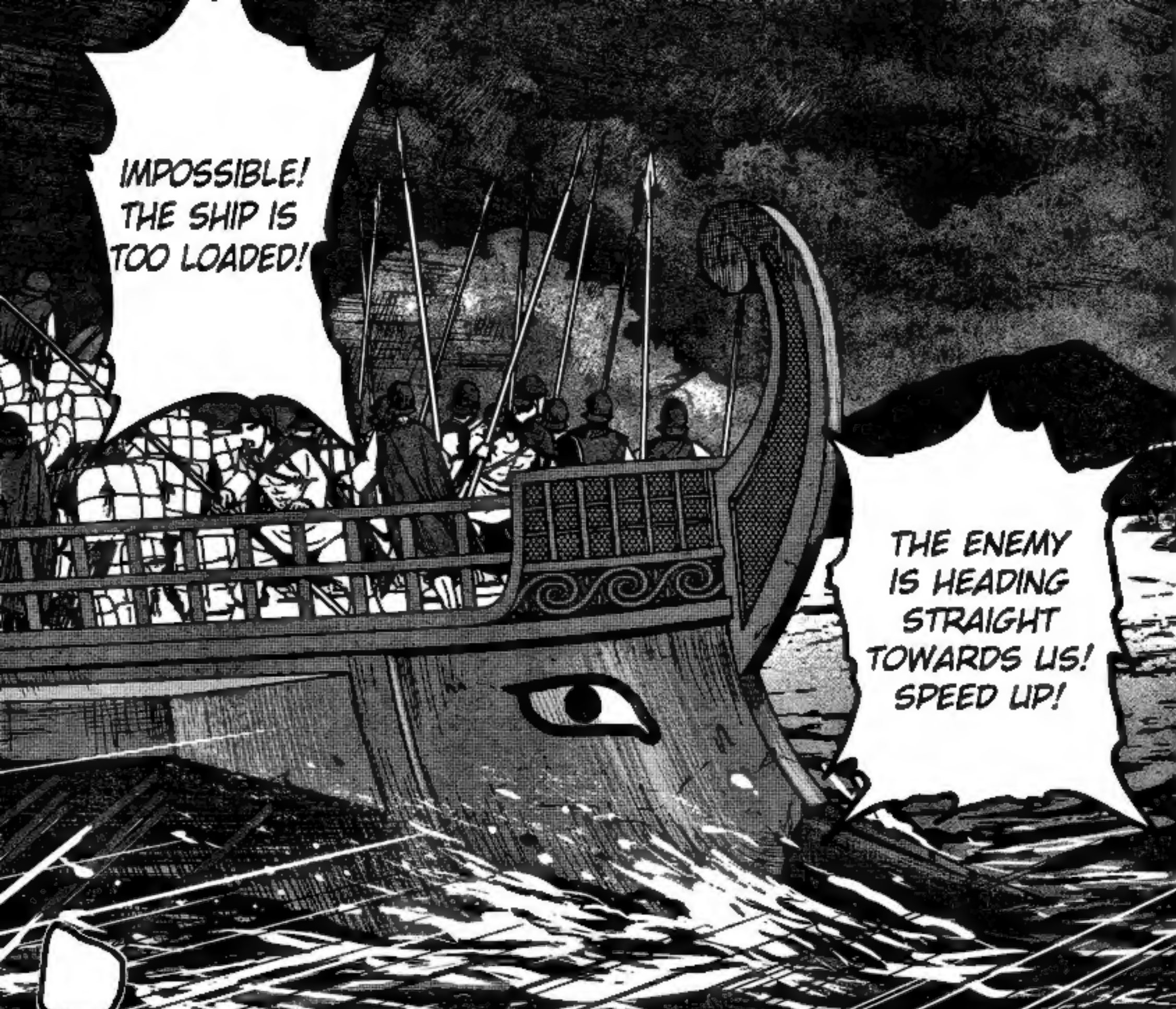
A MONSTER
NAMED
HANNIBAL
BARCA.

THE FUTURE
COMMANDER
OF THE CAR-
THAGINIAN
TROOPS WHO
WOULD
BECOME THE
WORST
NIGHTMARE
OF THE
ROMAN
ARMY.

新連載
大増54P
!!

EPISODE 12 THE BIRTH OF A MONSTER

スキピオとハンニバル



IMPOSSIBLE!
THE SHIP IS
TOO LOADED!

THE ENEMY
IS HEADING
STRAIGHT
TOWARDS US!
SPEED UP!



MARCH 241 BC
NORTHWEST OF SICILY,
OFF THE COAST OF
THE AEGADIAN ISLANDS.

GET READY TO ATTACK!



ON
BOARD
!

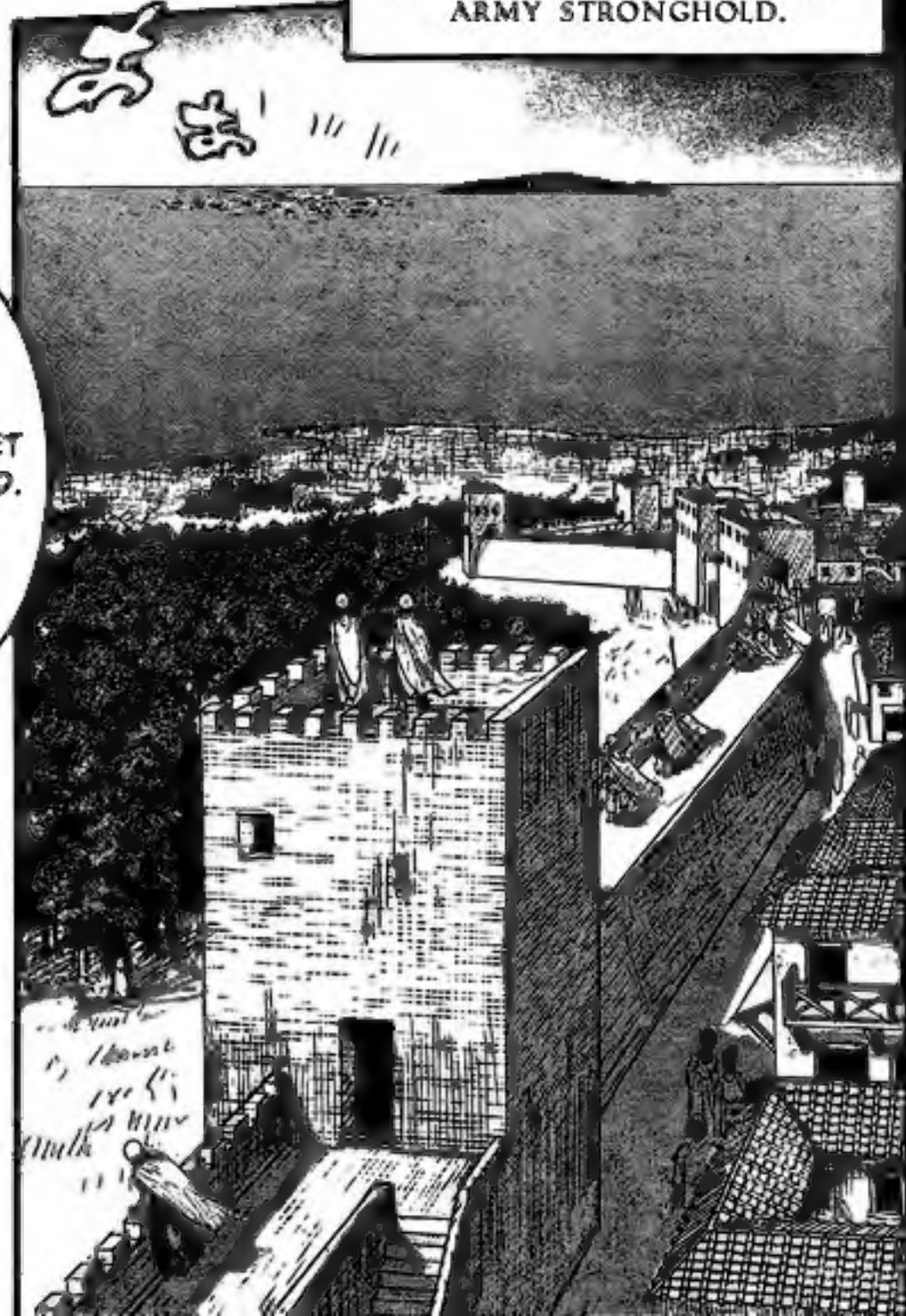




NORTHWEST OF SICILY,
ERICE TOWN, CARTHAGINIAN
ARMY STRONGHOLD.



OUR FLEET
IS ROUTED.





MANGA SYNDROME

RAW: JCAFE24.NET

TRANSLATOR & EDITOR: REBEL

PROOFREADER: SHOREIJULI

MAY YOUR
ANGER PLUNGE
THESE CURSED
ROMAN SHIPS
DEEP INTO THE
ABYSS OF SEA!

LET YOUR
LIGHTNING
TEAR THE
SKIES!

O BAAL,
GOD OF
THUNDER!

IT'S
A WASTE
OF TIME,
HIGH
PRIEST.

BAAL CHOSE
TO ABANDON
CARTHAGE.

HAMILCAR BARCA,
COMMANDER OF THE CARTHAGINIAN
ARMY IN SICILY.

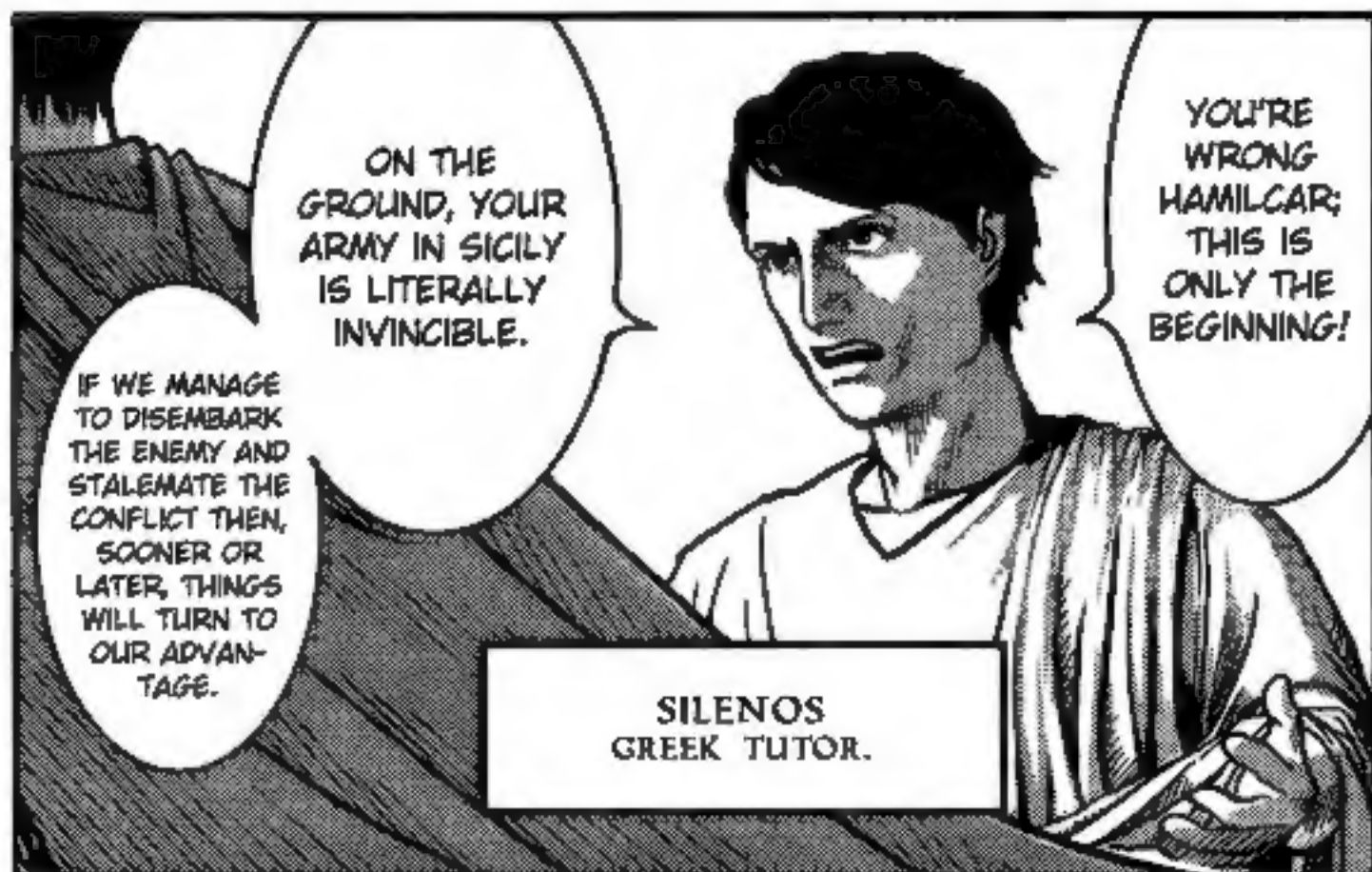




THE WAR IS
OVER... THIS
PITIFUL BATTLE
MARKS THE
END.



YOU DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
ANYTHING,
SILENOS.



ON THE
GROUND, YOUR
ARMY IN SICILY
IS LITERALLY
INVINCIBLE.

YOU'RE
WRONG
HAMILCAR;
THIS IS
ONLY THE
BEGINNING!

IF WE MANAGE
TO DISEMBARK
THE ENEMY AND
STALEMATE THE
CONFLICT THEN,
SOONER OR
LATER, THINGS
WILL TURN TO
OUR ADVAN-
TAGE.

SILENOS
GREEK TUTOR.



THIS IS
A TOTAL
DEFEAT.



HANNIBAL,
HOW CAN
YOU SAY
SUCH A
THING?!

THIS IS THE
END FOR
CARTHAGE!

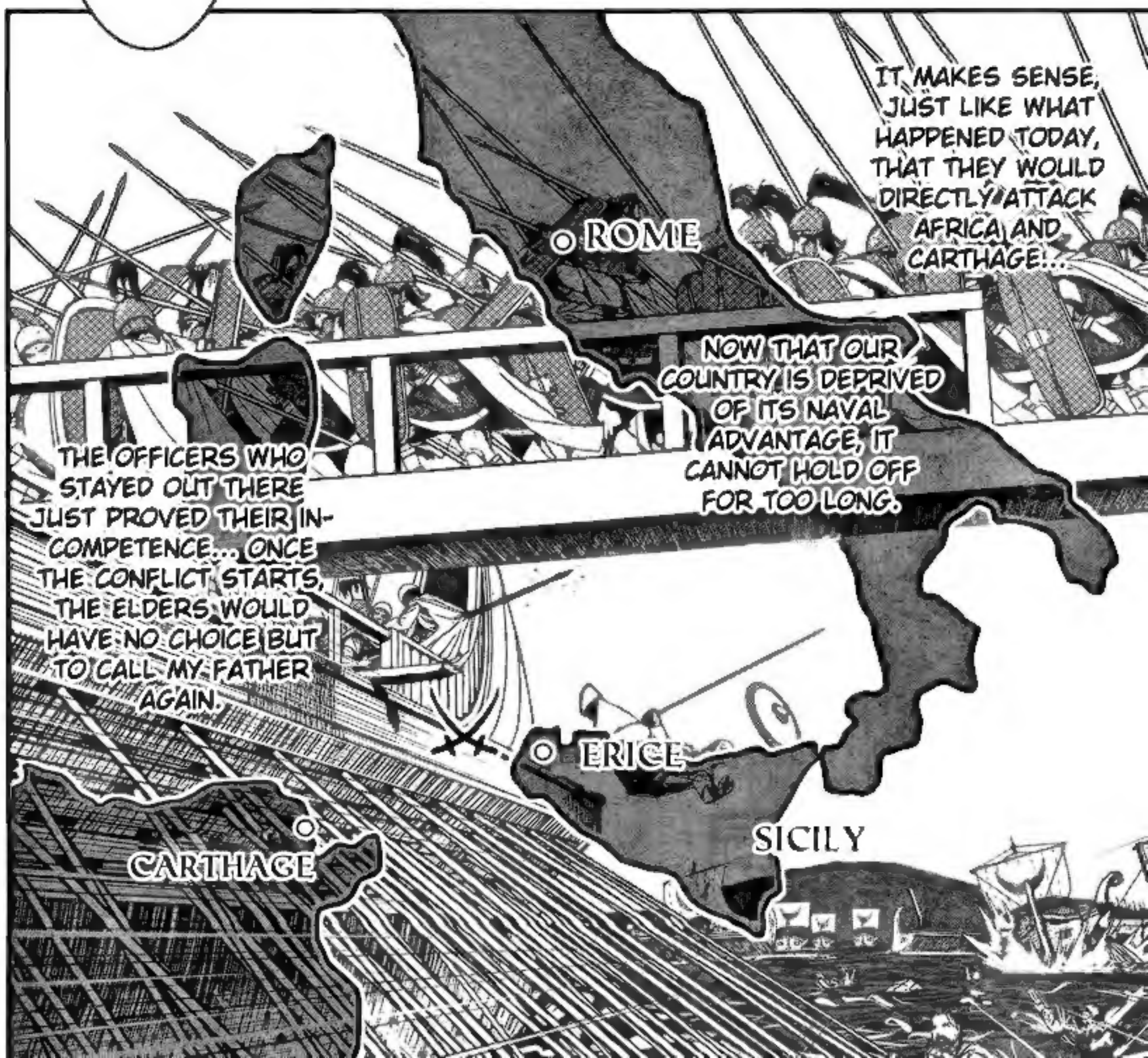
HANNIBAL,
ELDEST SON OF THE
BARCA FAMILY.



BUT ROME
DOESN'T HAVE
GREAT INTER-
EST IN GOING
AFTER SICILY.

OF COURSE, WE
COULD ALWAYS
HOLD OUR POSITIONS
BY RESUPPLYING
LOCALLY,

THEIR NAVAL
VICTORY ISOLATED
OUR LAND FORCES
PERMANENTLY.



○ ROME

IT MAKES SENSE,
JUST LIKE WHAT
HAPPENED TODAY,
THAT THEY WOULD
DIRECTLY ATTACK
AFRICA AND
CARTHAGE!

NOW THAT OUR
COUNTRY IS DEPRIVED
OF ITS NAVAL
ADVANTAGE, IT
CANNOT HOLD OFF
FOR TOO LONG.

THE OFFICERS WHO
STAYED OUT THERE
JUST PROVED THEIR IN-
COMPETENCE... ONCE
THE CONFLICT STARTS,
THE ELDERS WOULD
HAVE NO CHOICE BUT
TO CALL MY FATHER
AGAIN.

○ ERICE

SICILY

○
CARTHAGE



BUT THIS KID
IS ALREADY
A VISIONARY!

HE'S
ONLY SIX
YEARS
OLD,



IN SHORT,
CARTHAGE
ALREADY
LOST.

SO WE HAD
TO ABANDON
SICILY AND END
THE WAR.



DOES THAT
UPSET YOU?



YOUR
ANALYSIS
IS SOUND,
HANNIBAL
...



I HAVE
NOTHING TO
DO WITH
THEIR AM-
BITIONS.



THIS BATTLE
MARKS THE
END OF A WAR
BETWEEN TWO
COUNTRIES
BLINDED BY
GREED...

NOT
REALLY...



POOR
KID



MINNEAPOLIS



BE SO REMOTE
FROM EMOTIONS?

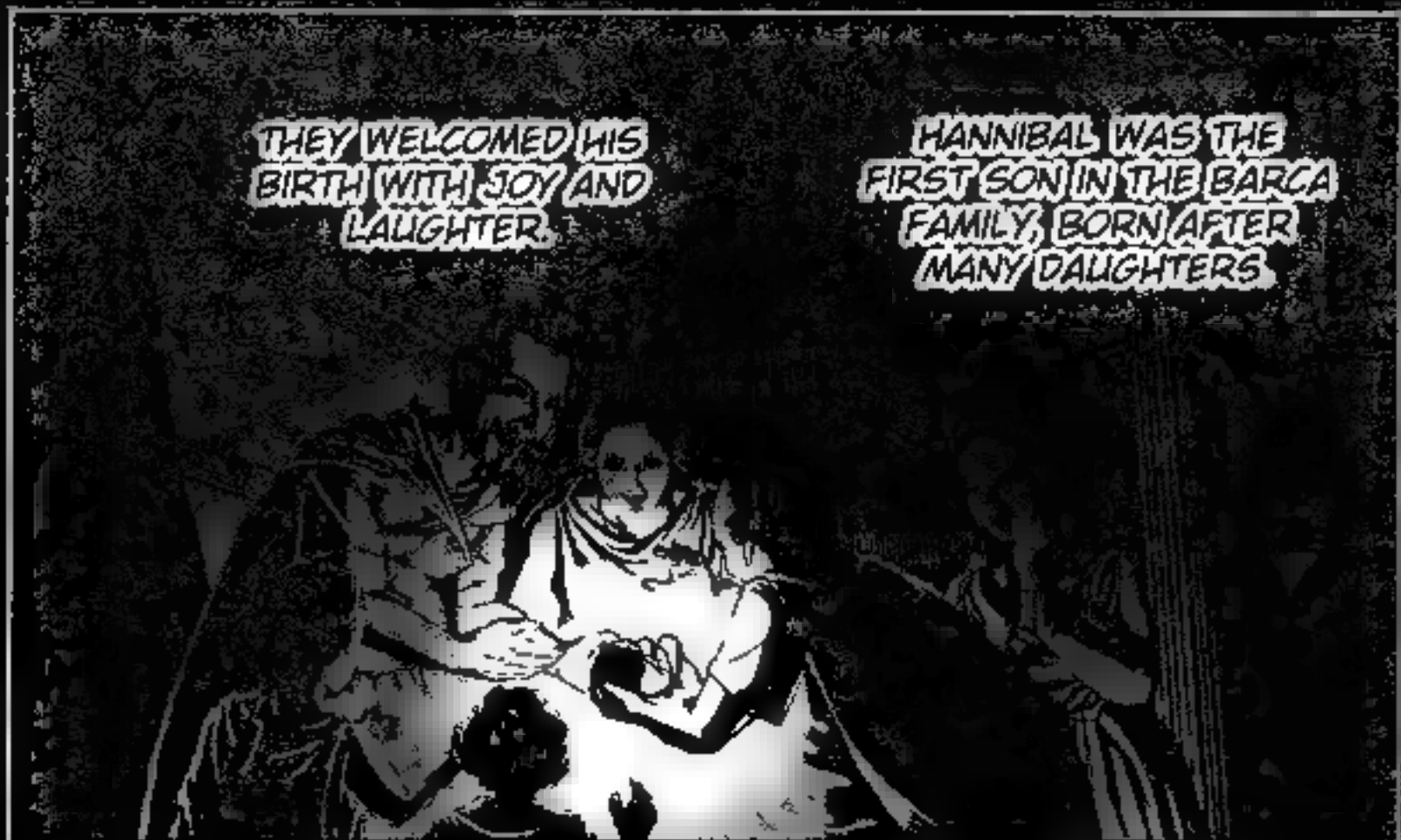
HOW COME SUCH
A SHARP AND
KNOWLEDGEABLE
SPIRIT





THEY WELCOMED HIS
BIRTH WITH JOY AND
LAUGHTER.

HANNIBAL WAS THE
FIRST SON IN THE BARCA
FAMILY, BORN AFTER
MANY DAUGHTERS.



AS IF THE
GODS HAD
FORGOTTEN
TO BREATHE
A SOUL INTO
HIM.



DAYS PASSED BY
AND HE STILL
DIDN'T MOVE. HE
JUST KEPT STARING
WITH LIFELESS EYES

BUT THE
NEWBORN DIDN'T
EVEN CRY AND
REFUSED HIS
MOTHER'S MILK.



ACTING ACCORDING TO
THE CARTHAGINIAN
CUSTOMS, HE DECIDED
TO OFFER THE BABY AS
A SACRIFICE TO BAAL

IN ORDER TO ASK THE
GODS TO GIVE THE BARCA
FAMILY A STRONG AND
BRAVE MALE HEIR.

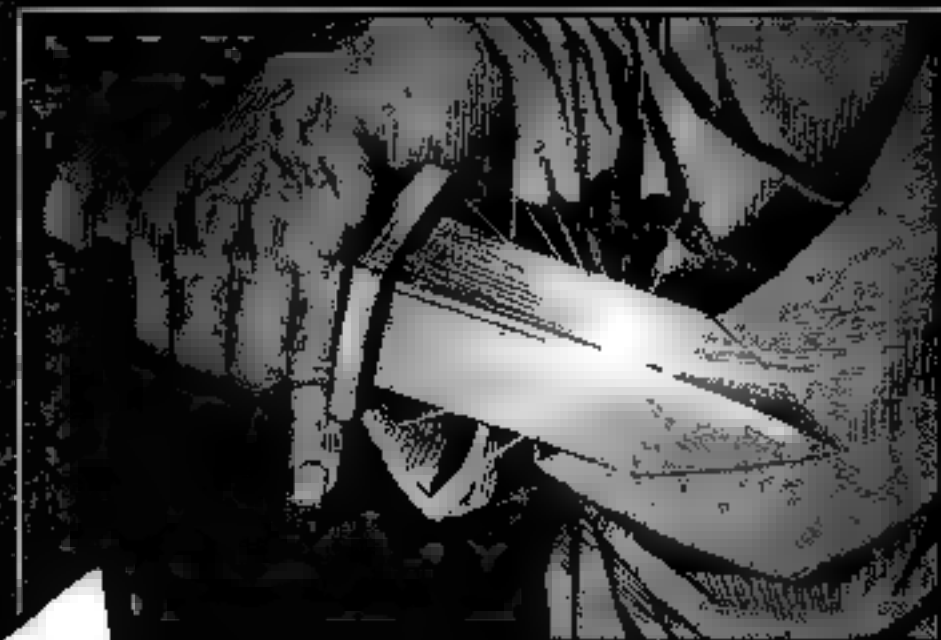


HAMILCAR WAS
AWFULLY
OVERWHELMED.

MAY YOU
GRANT
THE WISH
OF HIS
FAMILY!

O BAAL,
LORD OF
HEAVENS,
WE OFFER
YOU THIS
NEWLY-
BLOSSOMED
LIFE!

NO!







THIS CHILD
IS ALREADY
CAPABLE
OF SPEECH!

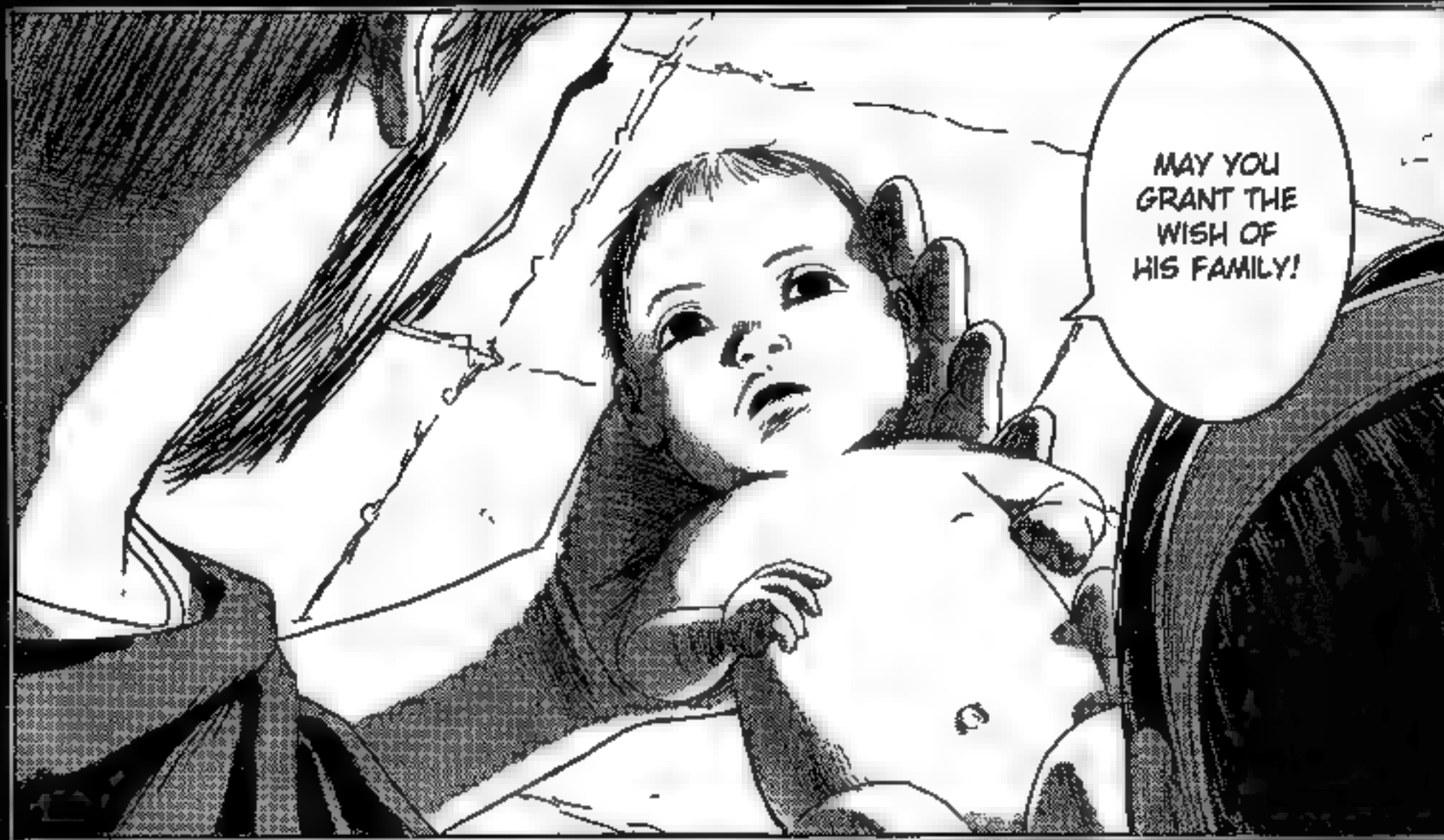
H... HOW
IS THIS
POSSIBLE?!



O BAAL,
LORD OF
HEAVENS, WE
OFFER YOU
THIS NEWLY-
BLOSSOMED
LIFE...



GIVE HIM
BACK!



MAY YOU
GRANT THE
WISH OF
HIS FAMILY!



IT'S A
MIRACLE!



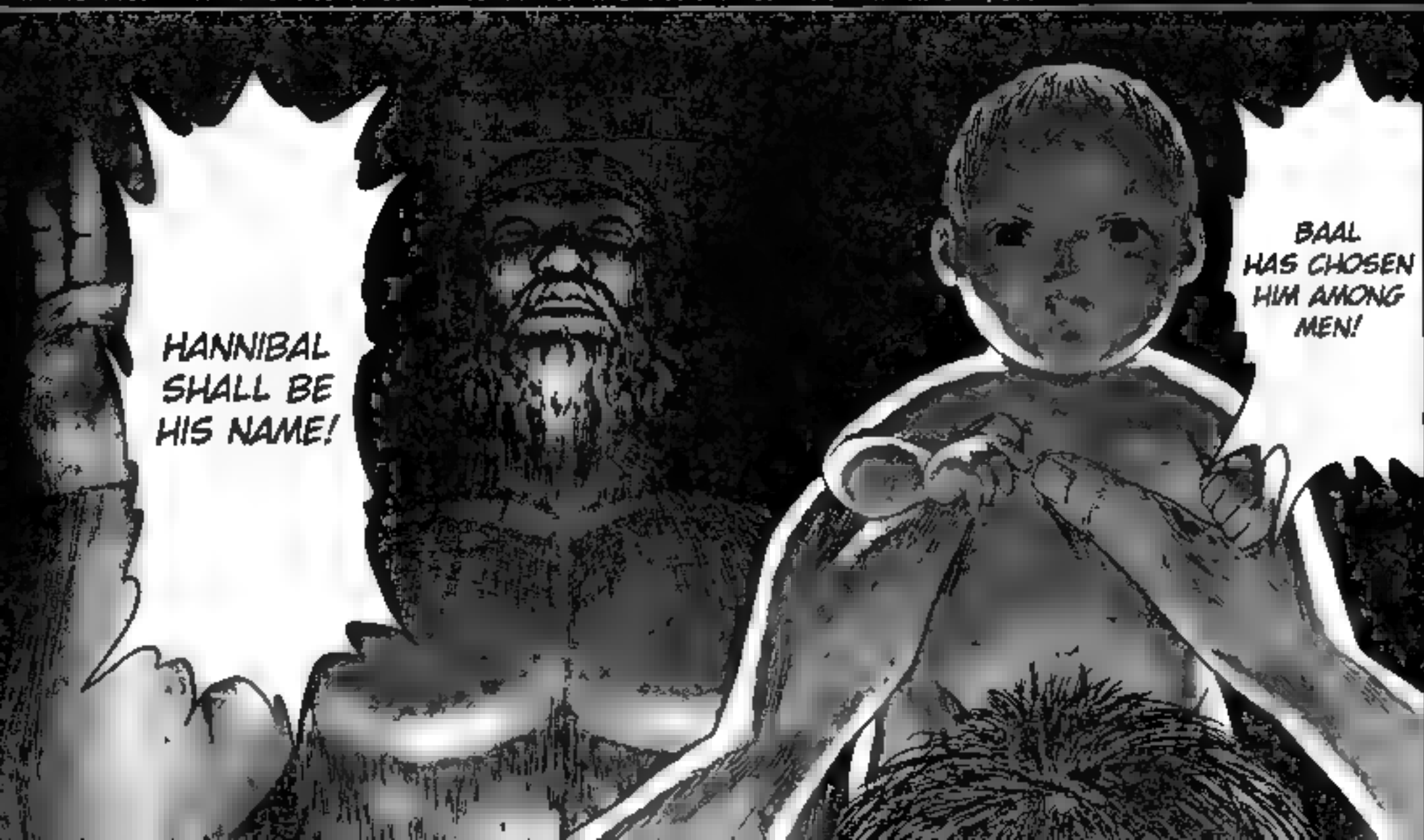
HE'S BEEN
CHOSEN BY
THE GODS...



THROUGH
THIS
STORM.

BAAL GAVE
A SOUL TO
OUR CHILD!

THE HANNIBAL MEANS "GRACE OF BAAL". "HANNY" MEANS GRACE AND "BAL" WELL... THE GOD, BAAL.



HANNIBAL
SHALL BE
HIS NAME!

BAAL
HAS CHOSEN
HIM AMONG
MEN!

WITHIN HIS FIRST SIX YEARS,
WHEN HIS FATHER WAS AWAY
ON BATTLE, WE, HIS GREEK
TUTORS, HAVE RELENTLESSLY
FED HIM ALL THE KNOWLEDGE
THAT WE POSSESSED.

IT WASN'T TOO
LONG UNTIL THE
CHILD PROVED
WORTHY OF THE
NAME HE WAS
GIVEN. HE WAS
ENDOWED WITH
EXTRAORDINARY
INTELLIGENCE.

HANNIBAL HAS CHEWED
THEN DIGESTED THEM...

WAS AS VAIN AS
TRYING TO FILL
A BOTTOMLESS
AMPHORA.

ATTEMPTING
TO APPEASE HIS
THIRST FOR
KNOWLEDGE

THEN WE REALIZED...



IN THOSE SIX
YEARS, WE HAVE
NEVER SEEN HIM
LAUGH.



THAT THE MYSTERY OF
HIS BIRTH DID NOT
FOREBODE ANY GOOD.



EYES ARE THE
WINDOWS TO
THE SOUL.
DEEP INTO HIS



THERE WAS
NOTHING BUT
DARKNESS!





HE IS
HARDLY
ANYTHING
BUT A BOOK
THAT TOOK
THE FORM
OF A BODY.

EVEN IF THIS
CHILD HAS
BEEN ENDOWED
WITH INTELLIGENCE
AND KNOWLEDGE
FROM BAAL, HE
STILL LACKS
THE MOST
IMPORTANT
THING ..



BUT ALAS,
I KNOW
YOU'RE NOT
TELLING THE
TRUTH.

I APPRECIATE
YOUR WORDS
...



BUT HE
HAS NEVER
FELT THEM...



HE KNOWS
HAPPINESS
AND PAIN...



IT IS THE
SAD TRUTH
...



HANNIBAL IS
NOT FAVORED
BY THE GODS.

WE MUST
FACE THE
FACT THAT
...

THE PEACE
TREATY IM-
POSED ON
CARTHAGE
A NON-
AGGRESSION
PACT, A
CESSION OF
ALL CLAIMS
TO SICILY,

AND ALSO
THE PAY-
MENT OF A
MASSIVE
INDEMNITY.

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

CARTHAGE

CORSICA

ROME

SARDINIA

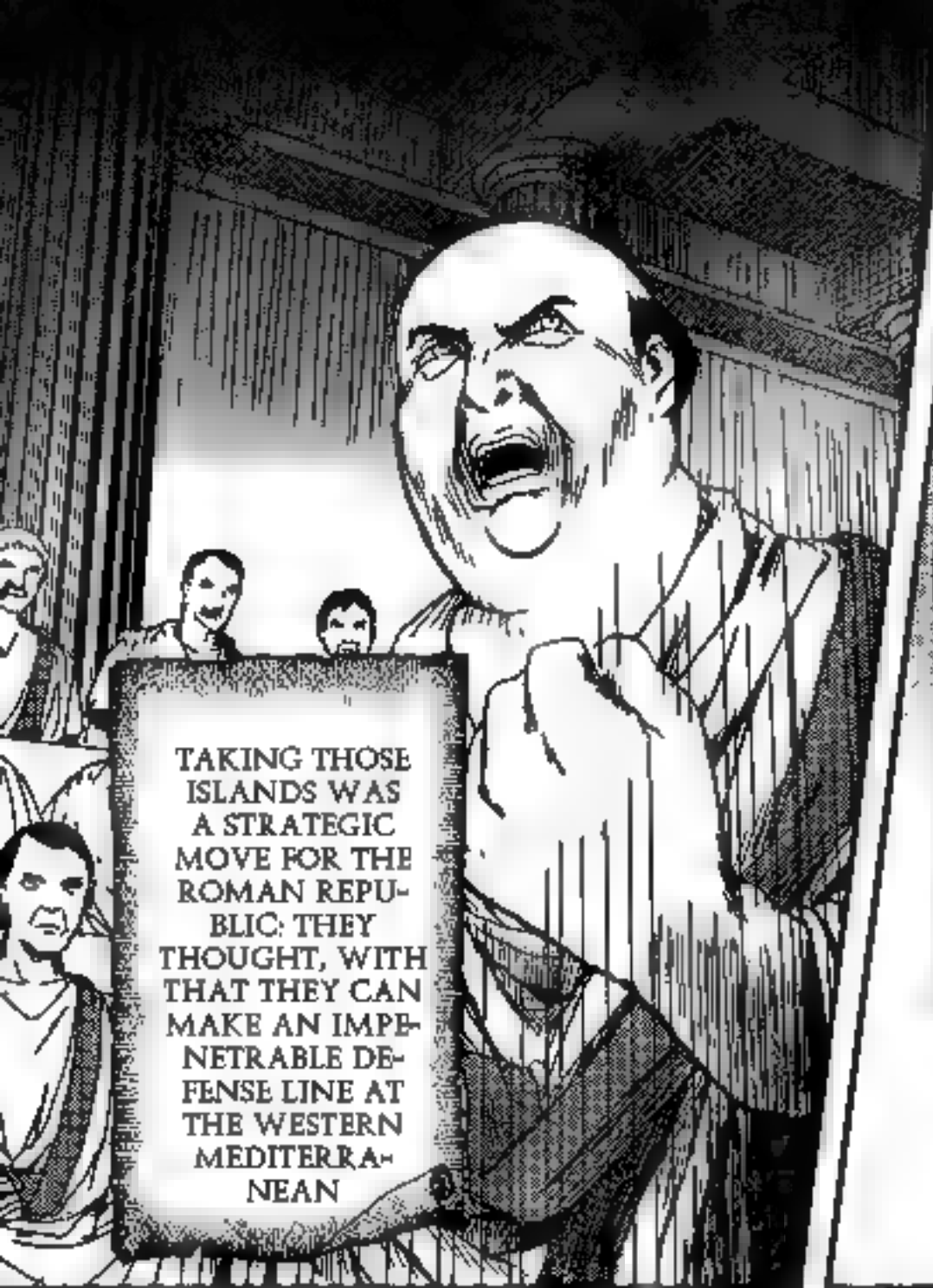
SICILY

SOON AFTER
THAT, HAMIL-
CAR WAS
FORCED TO
LAY DOWN
THEIR WEA-
PONS, AND
WITH THAT,
THE WAR
ENDED WITH
ROMAN
VICTORY

FOR THE
DEFEATED, IT
WASNT TOO
LONG UNTIL
THEY STAR-
TED STRUG-
GLING WITH
THE CONSE-
QUENCES OF
THEIR SUR-
RENDER.

SUFFOCATED
BY THEIR DEBTS
TO ROME, THE
CARTHAGI-
NIANS DID NOT
HAVE ENOUGH
MONEY TO PAY
THEIR MERCE-
NARIES

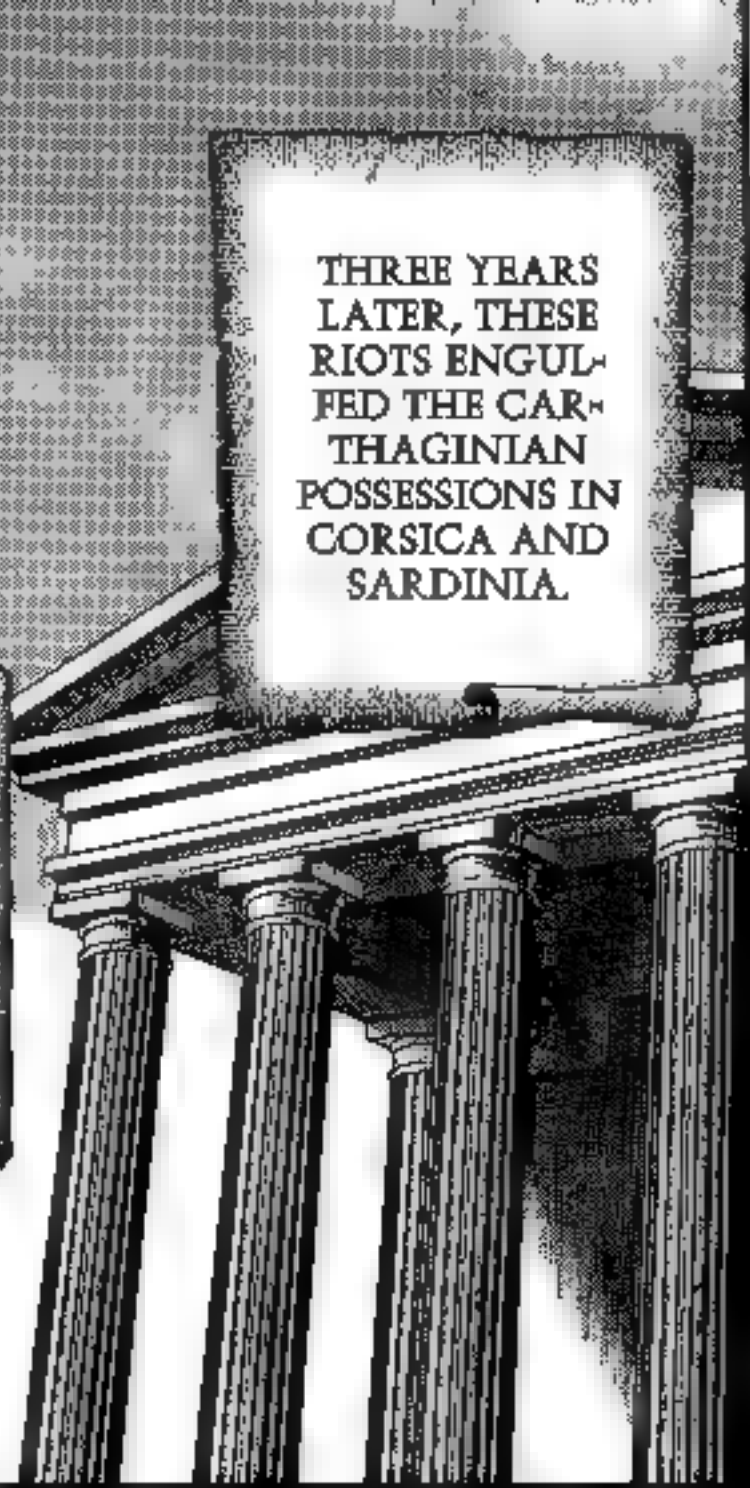
WHOSE ANGER
EVENTUALLY
TRANSLATED
TO A SERIES
OF REVOLTS
AGAINST THE
CITY.



TAKING THOSE ISLANDS WAS A STRATEGIC MOVE FOR THE ROMAN REPUBLIC. THEY THOUGHT, WITH THAT THEY CAN MAKE AN IMPENETRABLE DEFENSE LINE AT THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

ROME CHOSE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CONFUSION TO SEIZE THOSE ISLANDS.

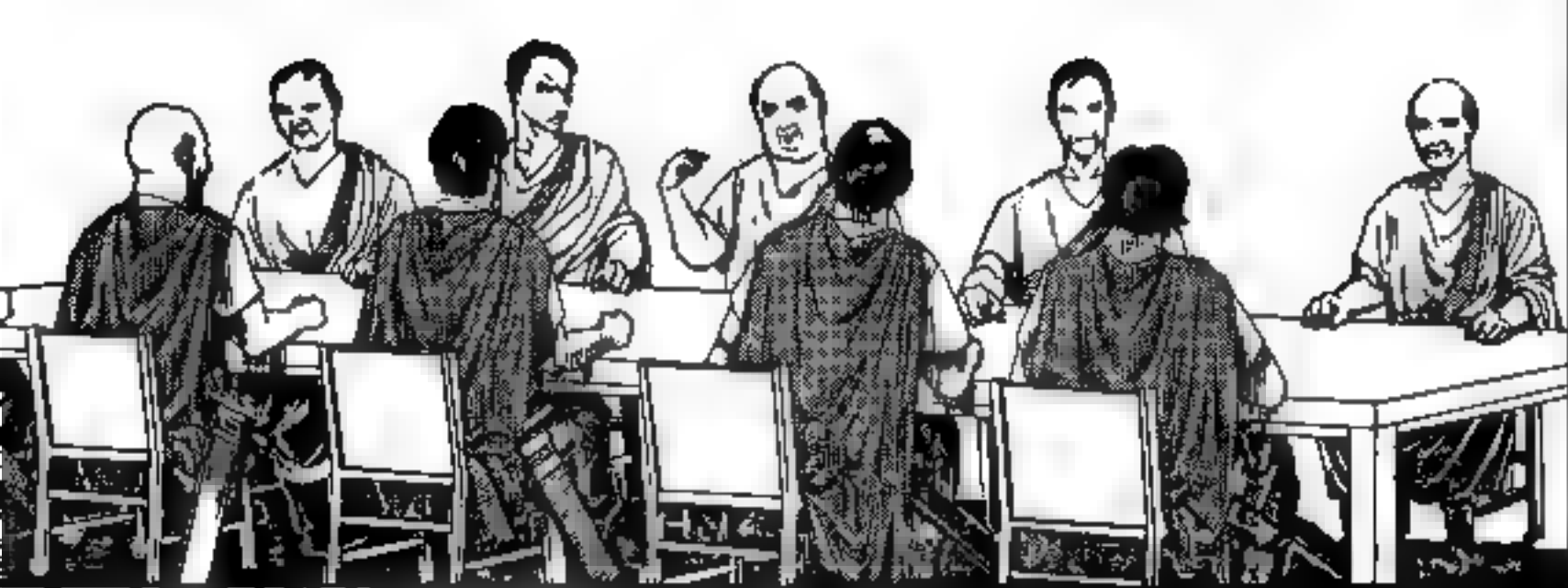
THREE YEARS LATER, THESE RIOTS ENGULFED THE CARTHAGINIAN POSSESSIONS IN CORSICA AND SARDINIA.



ゴゴゴゴゴ...

THE ROMANS WERE TOO OVERJOYED BY THEIR MILITARY SUCCESSSES THAT THEY DID NOT THINK TWICE ABOUT THE REPERCUSSIONS OF THEIR THIRST FOR TERRITORY WOULD CAUSE.

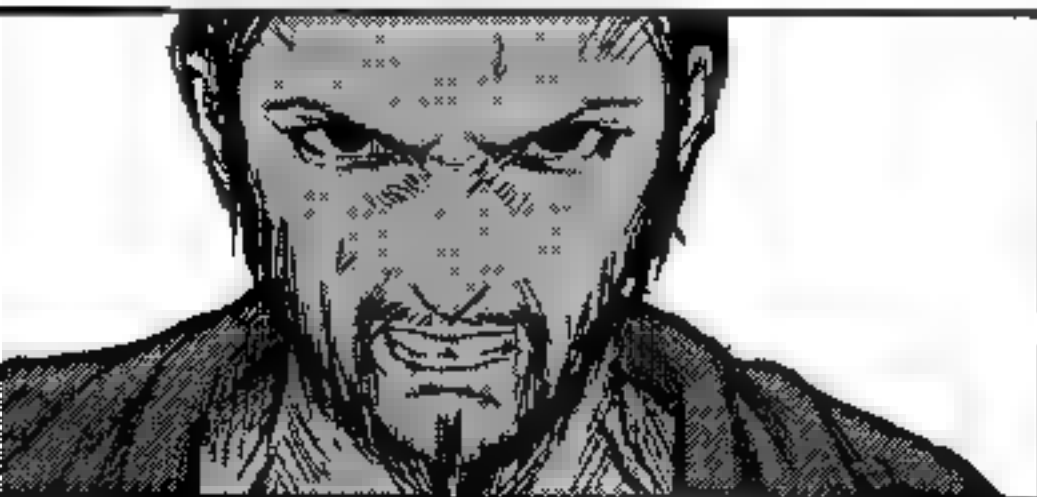




WOULDN'T THAT BE YOU?

CAUDINUS,
CONSUL.*

(*) CONSUL: ROME'S HIGHEST MAGISTRATE.



BUT IT'S UP
TO YOU TO
PROVE THE
GOOD FAITH
OF YOUR
COUNTRY.

1200
TALENTS *
WOULD
SUFFICE TO
CONVINCE
US!



THAT'S THE
SAME AS
DECLARING
WAR.

PUBLIUS CORNELIUS SCIPIO,
MEMBER OF THE ROMAN
DELEGATION

THERE'S NO
OTHER WAY
BUT TO
ACCEPT THIS
CHALLENGE.



FAR FROM
US IS THE IDEA
OF VIOLATING
OUR TREATY.



CARTHAGE
HAS MET
ITS COMMIT-
MENTS DOWN
TO THE
LETTER.



SEE,

DID YOU REALLY
THINK THAT WE
WOULDN'T KNOW
THAT YOU'RE SE-
CRETLY BUILDING
A NEW FLEET?

SARDINIA,
TEMPLE OF BAAL.

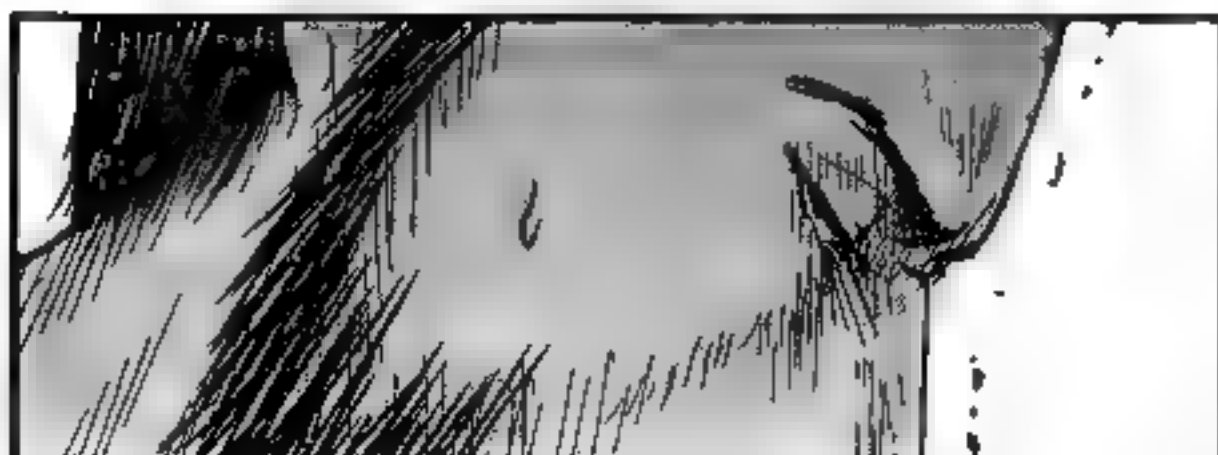


THE
MERCENARIES'
REVOLT HAS
ALREADY STRIPPED
YOU FROM YOUR
INFLUENCE ON
THOSE TWO
ISLANDS.

WE HAVE
ONLY RECEIVED
POWER FROM
THE HANDS OF
THEIR NEW
SOVEREIGN.



IF IT WAS TO EMBARK
ON THE PATH OF SHAME,
PERHAPS IT WOULD
HAVE BEEN BETTER IF
OUR ARMY WOULD
MARCH ON CARTHAGE.
AT LEAST, THE BATTLE
WOULD HAVE BEEN FAIR.



CARTHAGE NO
LONGER HAS THE
STRENGTH TO
FIGHT ROME.
THESE MEN HAVE
NO OTHER CHOICE
BUT TO ACCEPT
OUR CONDITIONS.

USING DIPLOMACY AS
MEANS OF THREATENING
THE DEFEATED IS
UNWORTHY OF ROME.



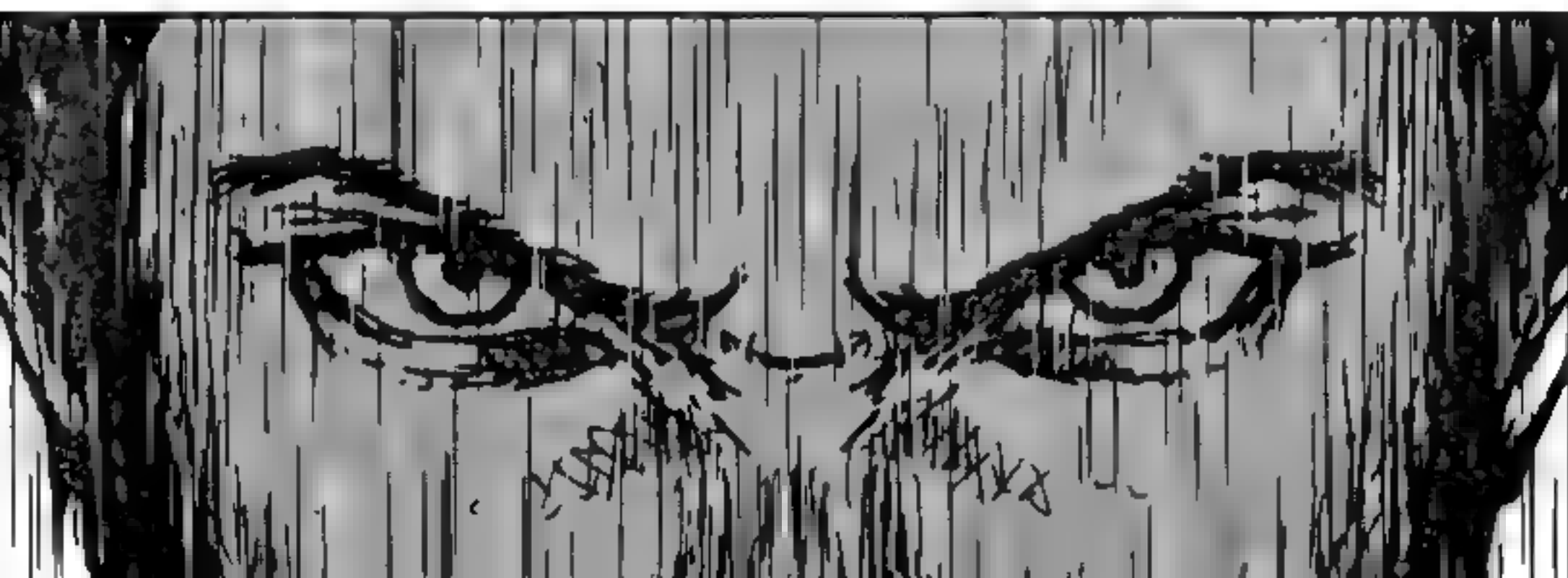
YOU AND YOUR MEN
WILL BOW DOWN
AND BEG OUR FOR-
GIVENESS FOR BE-
TRAYING THE GODS
AND THE TREATY
THAT BINDS YOU TO
ROME.

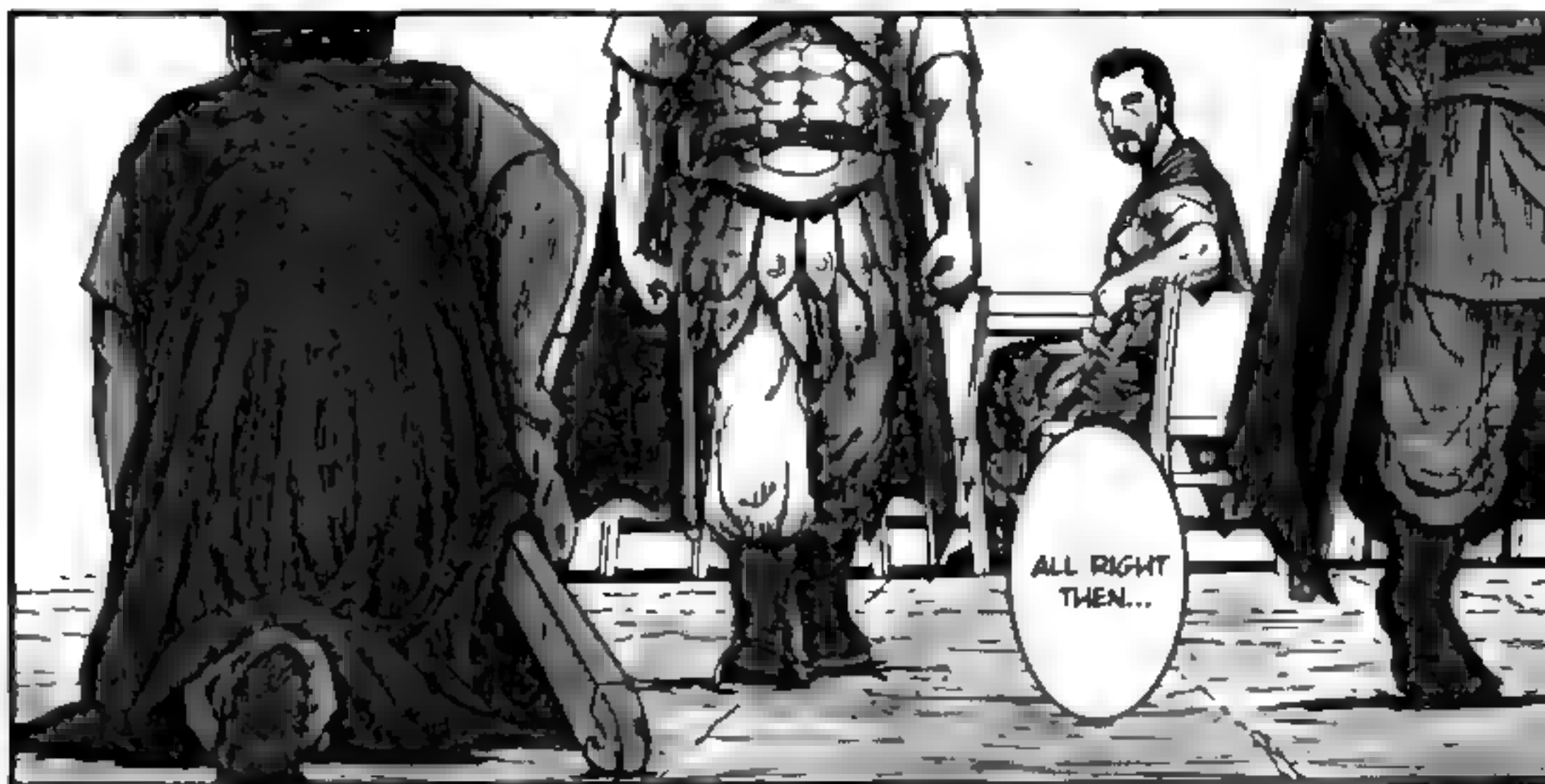
NEVERTHELESS,
MONEY
DOESN'T SOLVE
EVERYTHING!



VERY
WELL,
WE WILL
PAY...









I AM NOT ASKING FOR TOO MUCH...

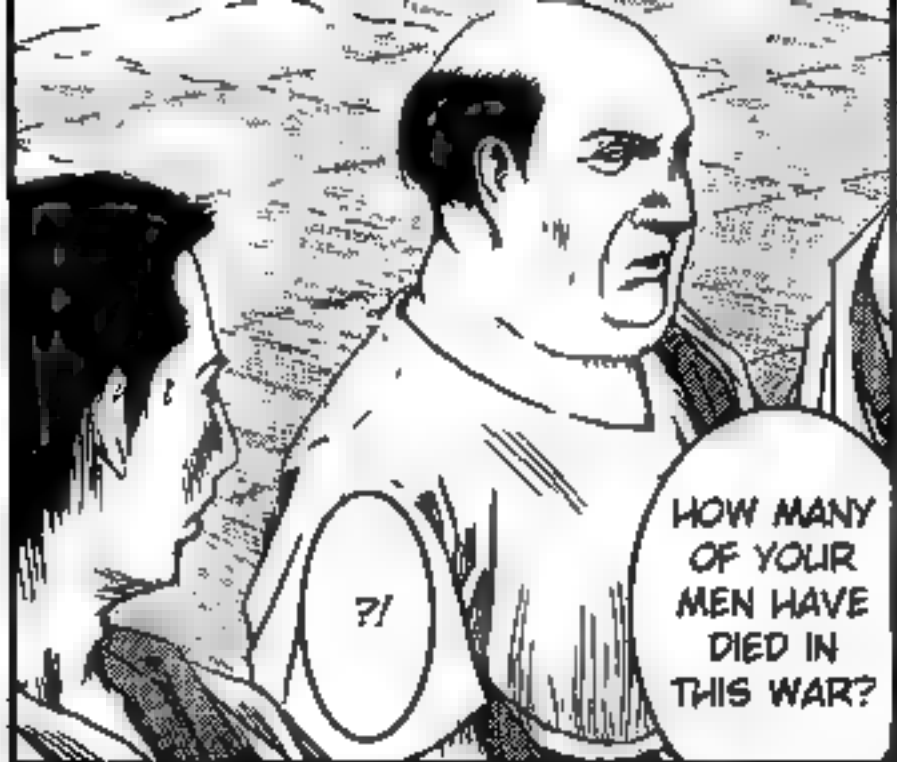
HAMILCARI!



YOU UNDERSTAND THAT IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE PEACE, I WILL CONSIDER THE PRECAUTION OF TAKING YOUR WIVES.

HOWEVER, SINCE YOU ARE CONSPIRING TO WAGE WAR AGAINST ROME





?!

HOW MANY
OF YOUR
MEN HAVE
DIED IN
THIS WAR?



EVEN IF WE
ARE LEGALLY
UNDER YOUR
JURISDICTION,
SUCH ACTION
GOES AGAINST
THE SENATE'S
DIRECTIVES!

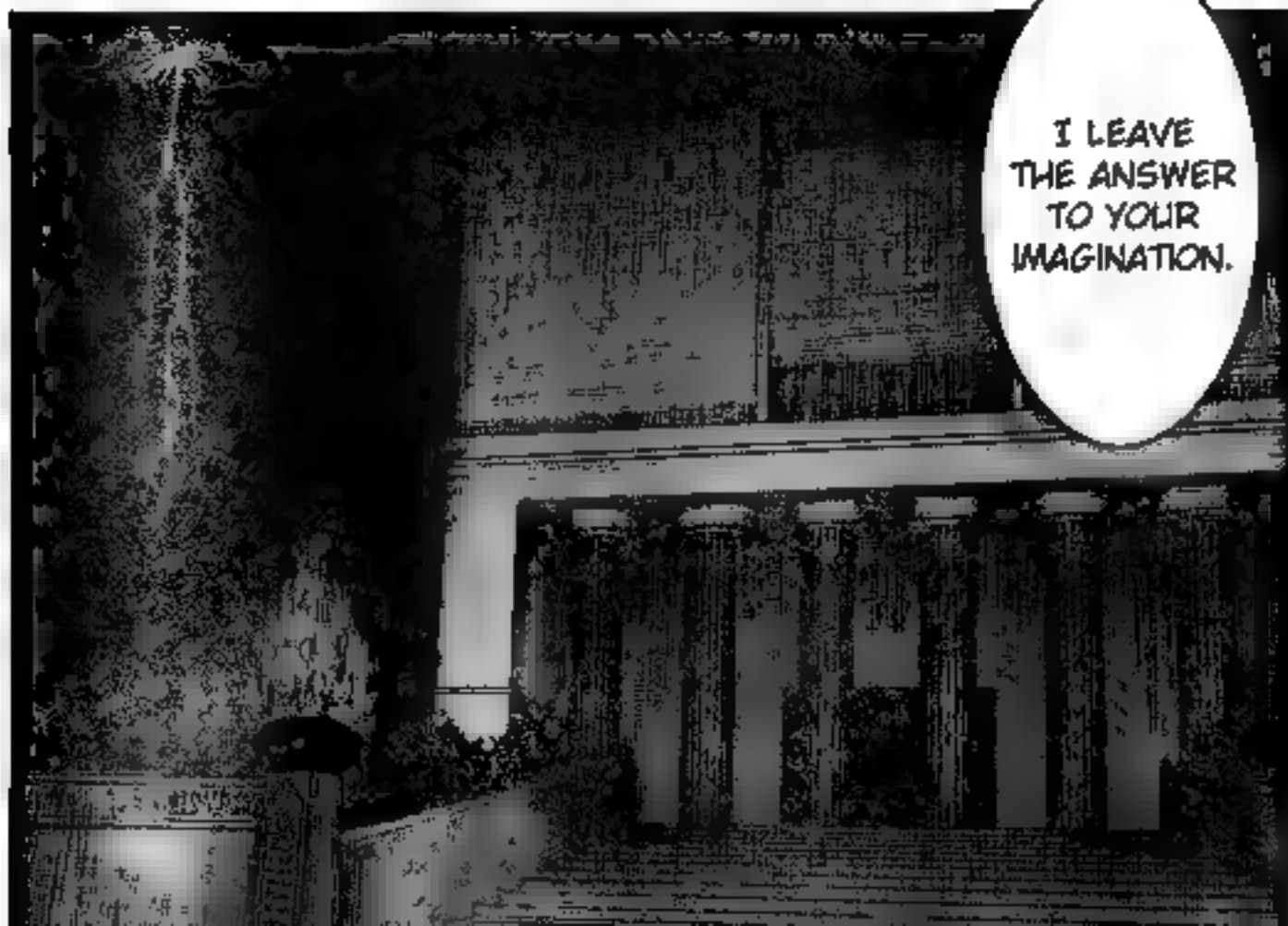
CAUDINUS,
WHEN DID
YOU GIVE
THESE
ORDERS?!



SO, TELL ME
SCIPIO, WHAT
IS THE HARM
IN WANTING
TO GIVE A
SENSE OF
SACRIFICE TO
OUR FELLOW
CITIZENS?

THE PEOPLE
OF ROME
DESERVE TO
CLAIM A COM-
PENSATION
FOR THEIR
LOSS...

AND I AM
THEIR
SPOKES-
MAN
HERE.



I LEAVE
THE ANSWER
TO YOUR
IMAGINATION.



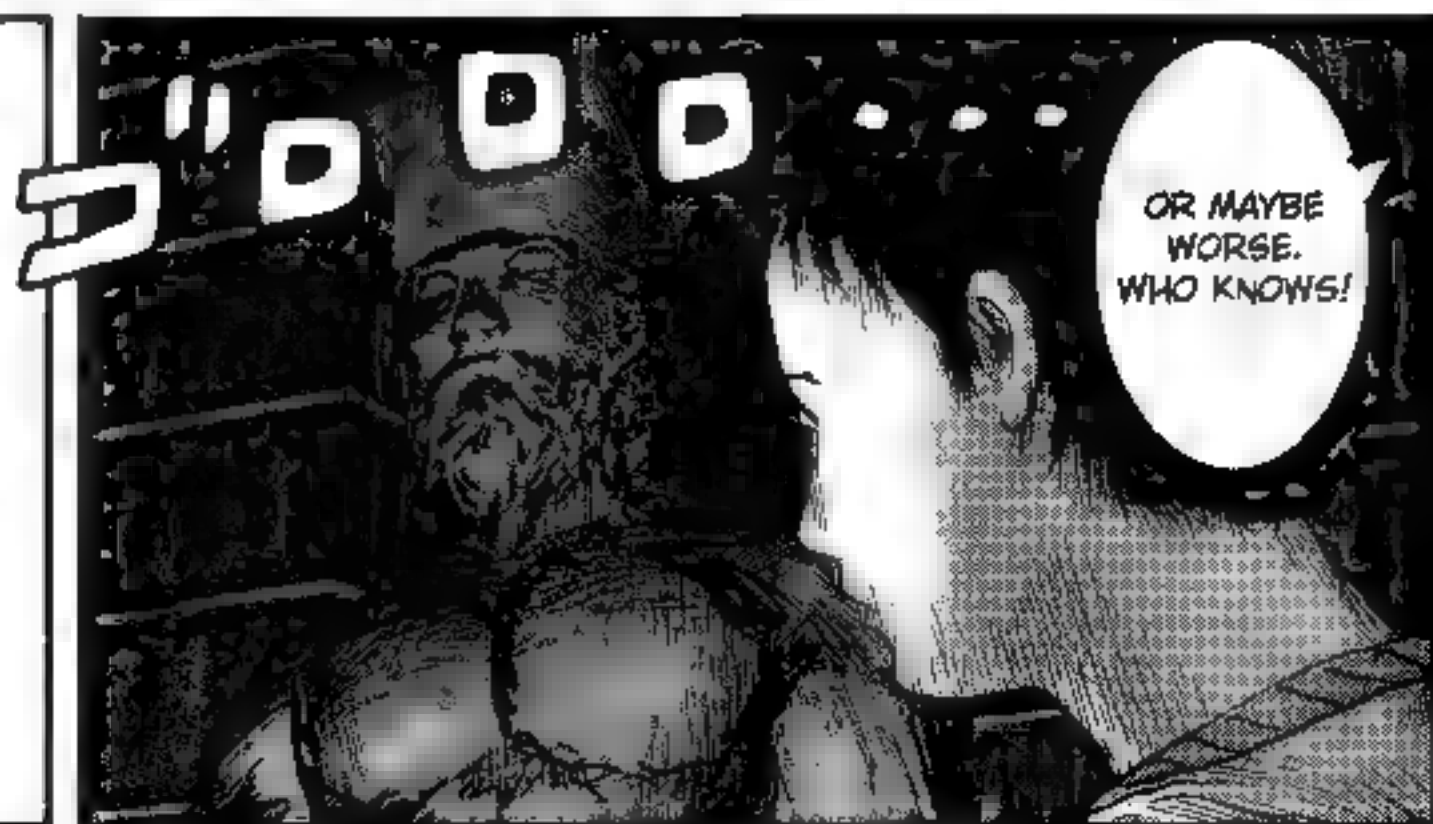
OUR
WOMEN
...

WHAT ARE
YOU GOING TO
DO WITH THEM
ONCE IN ROME?



THEY WILL
BE THEIR
SLAVES

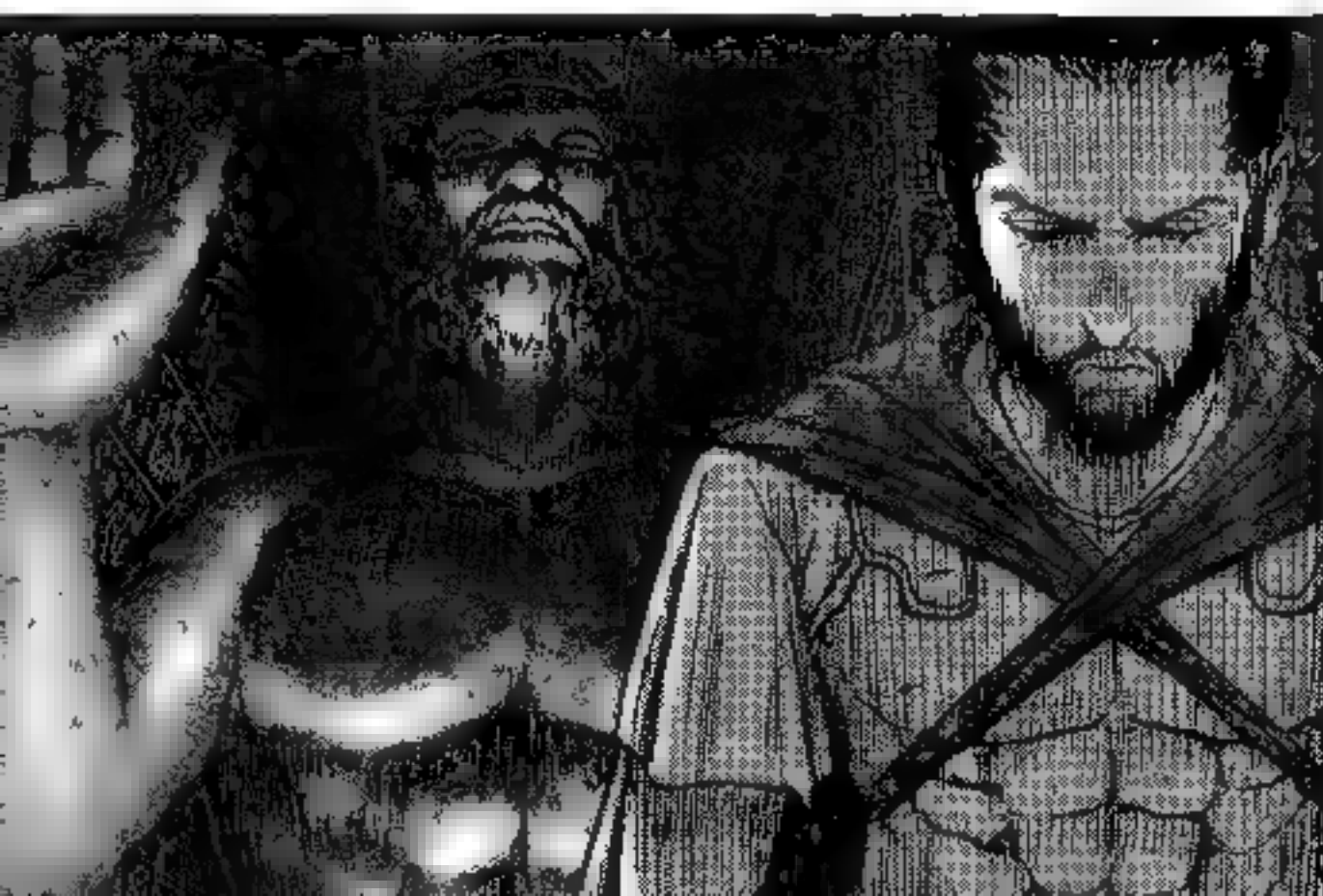
WHAT
DOES
THAT
EVEN
MEAN?



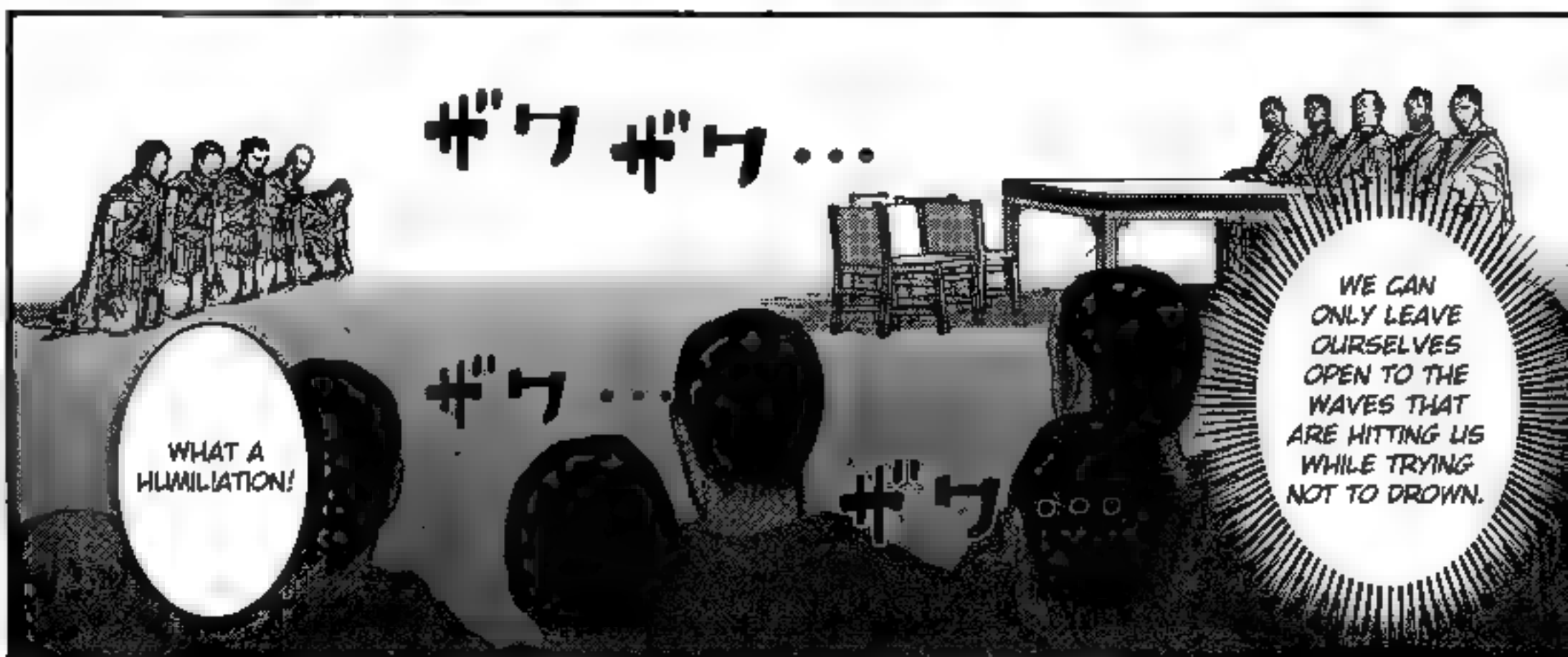
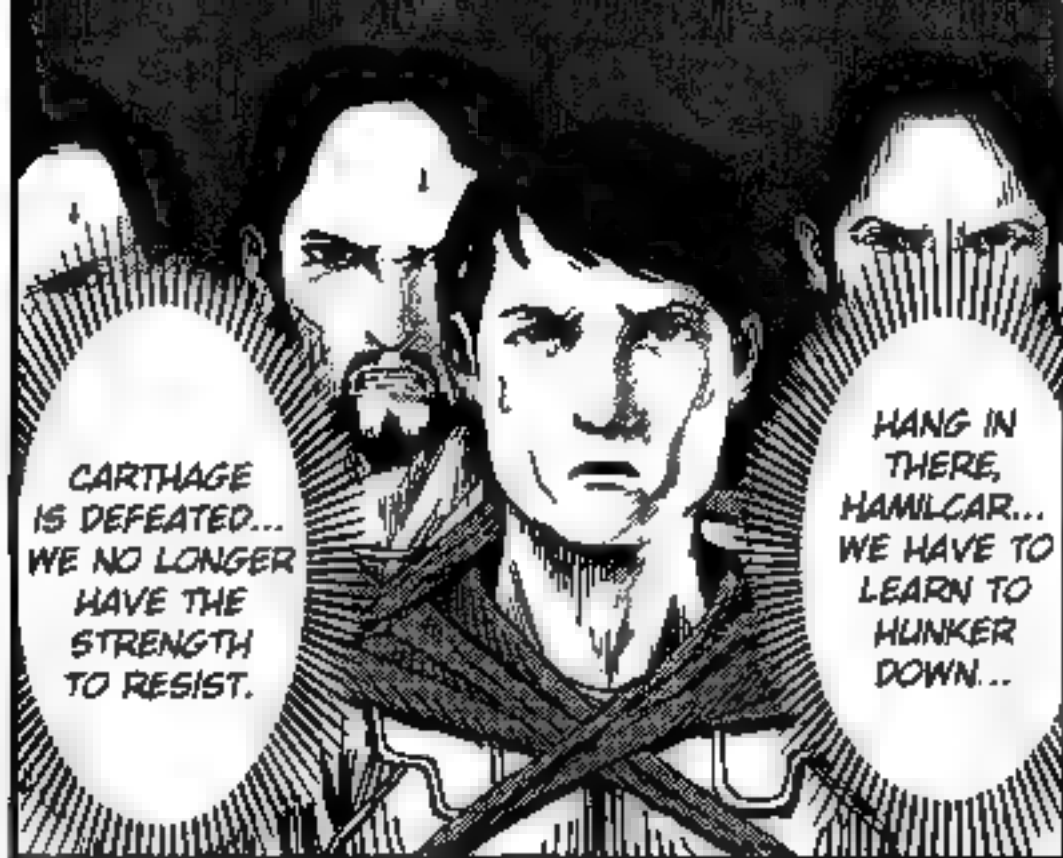
OR MAYBE
WORSE.
WHO KNOWS!

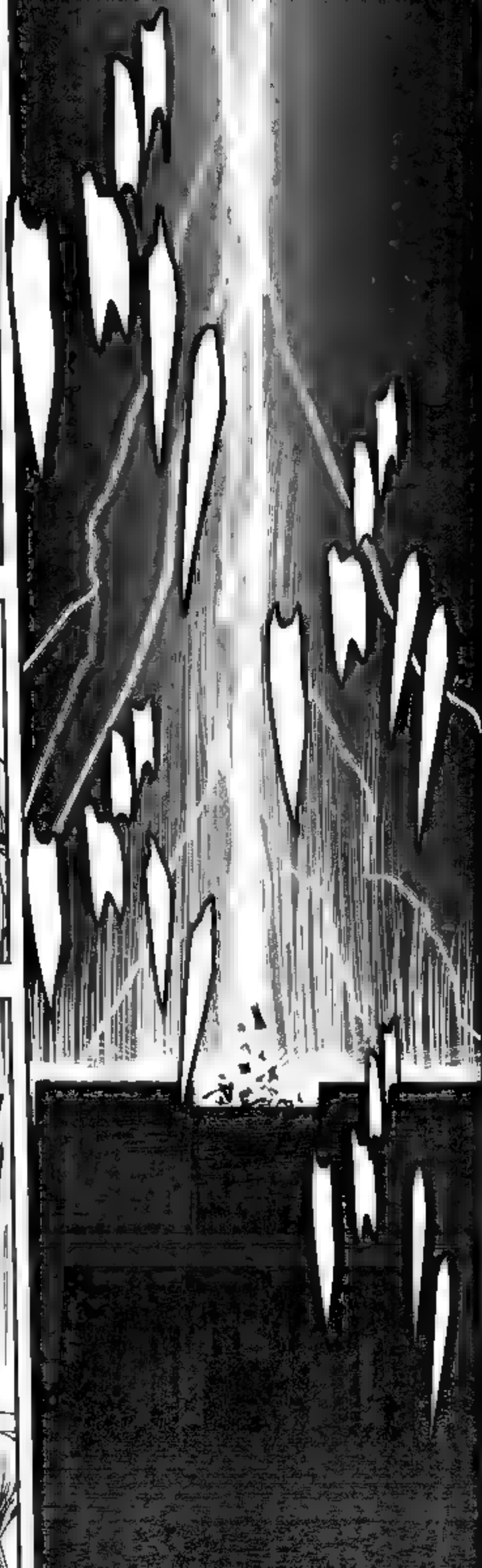


AH!

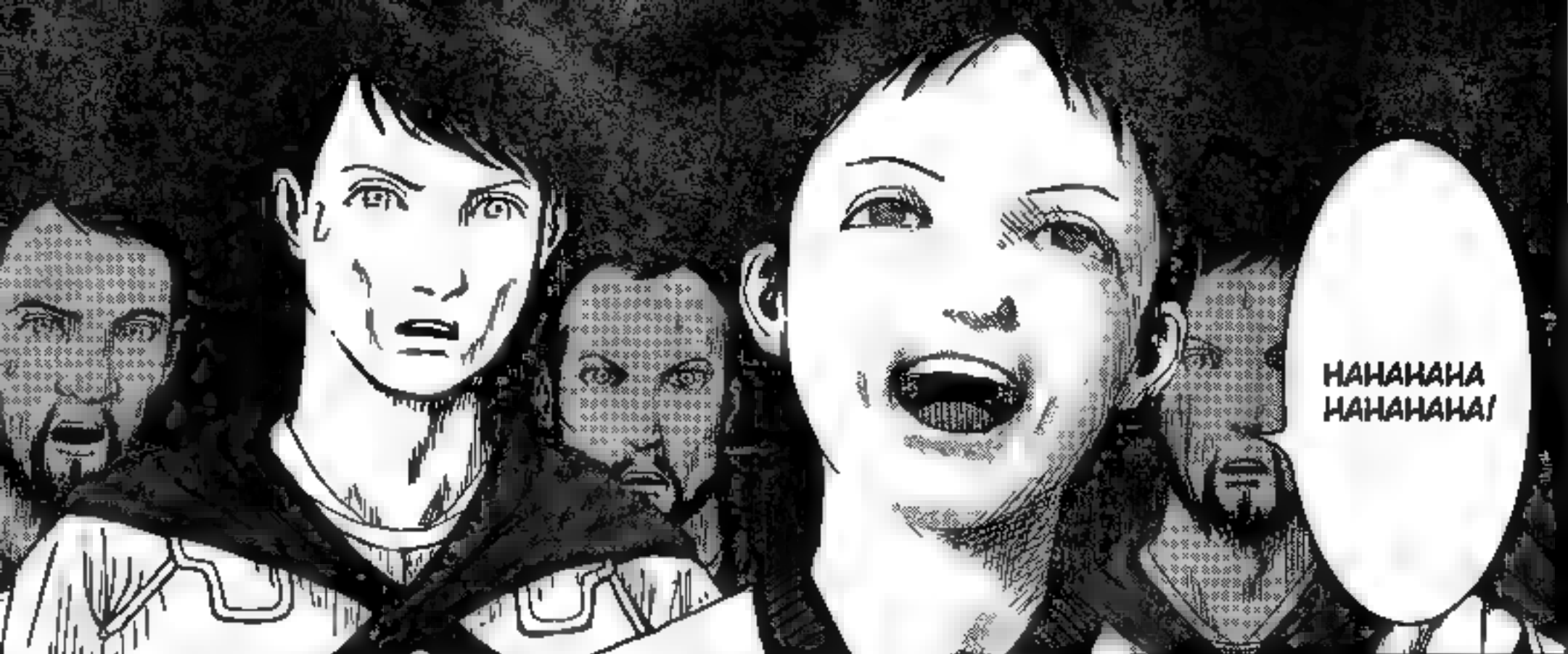


VERY
WELL.

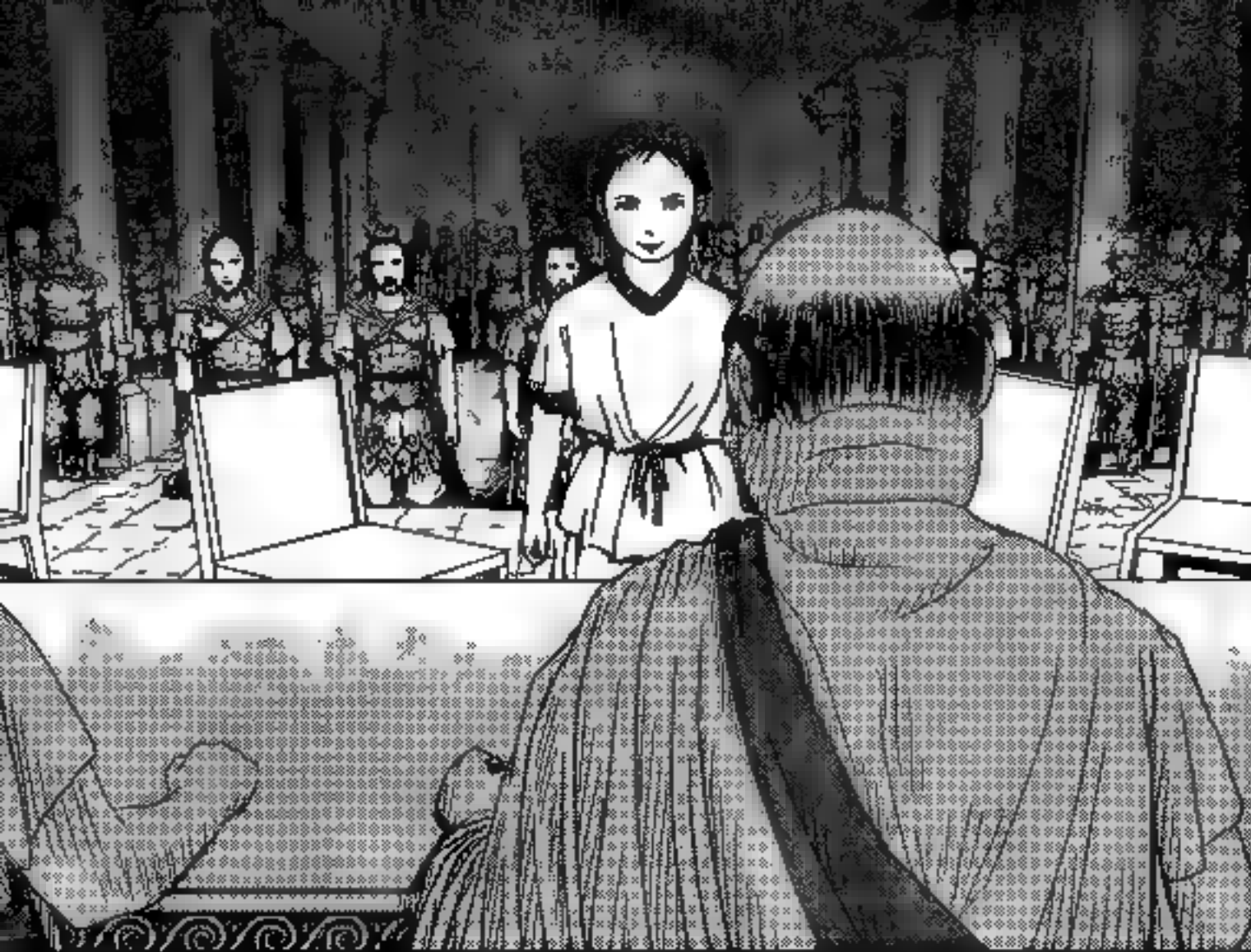


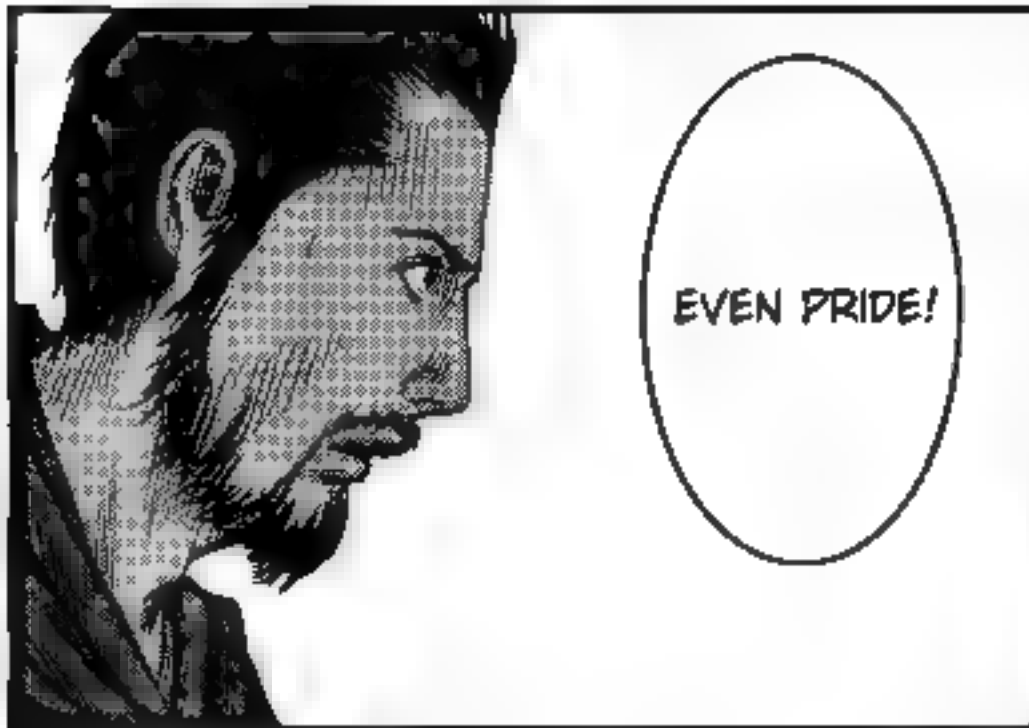


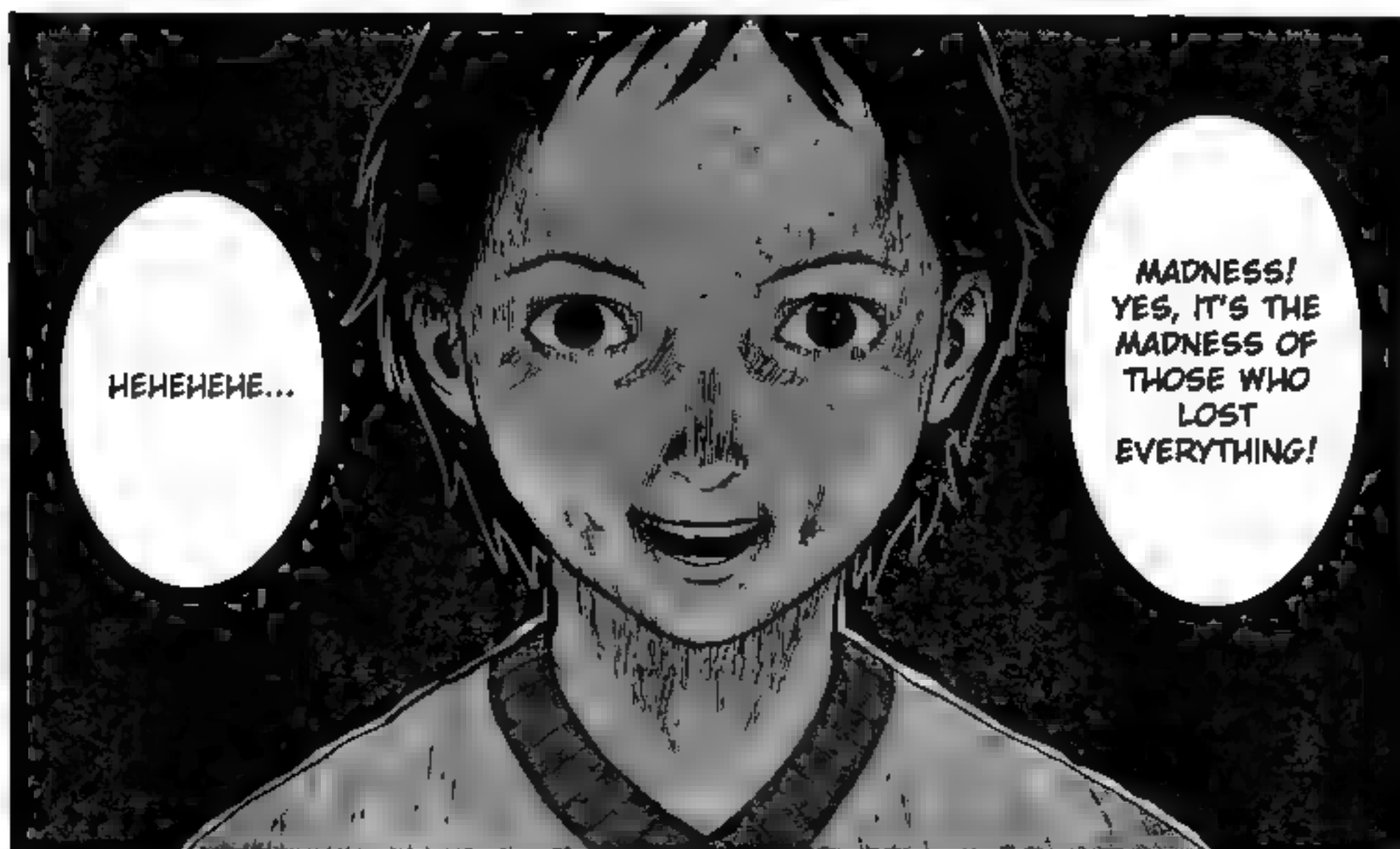
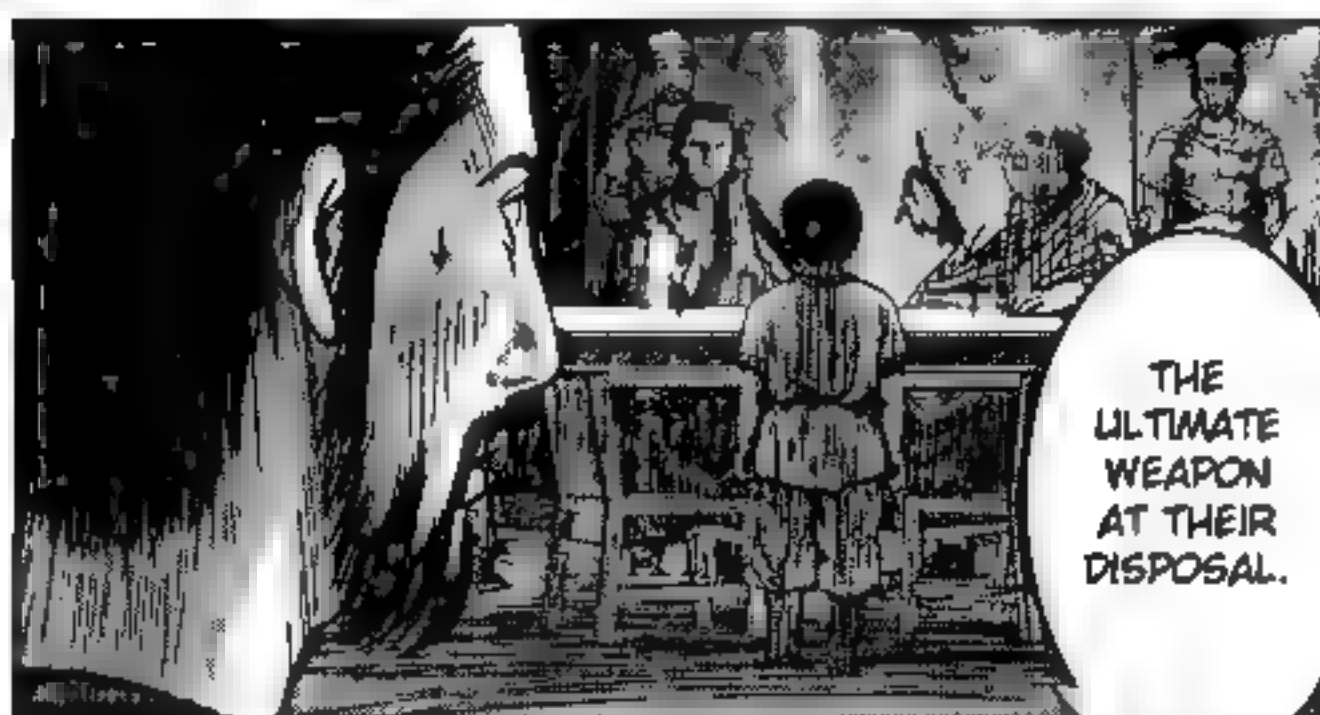
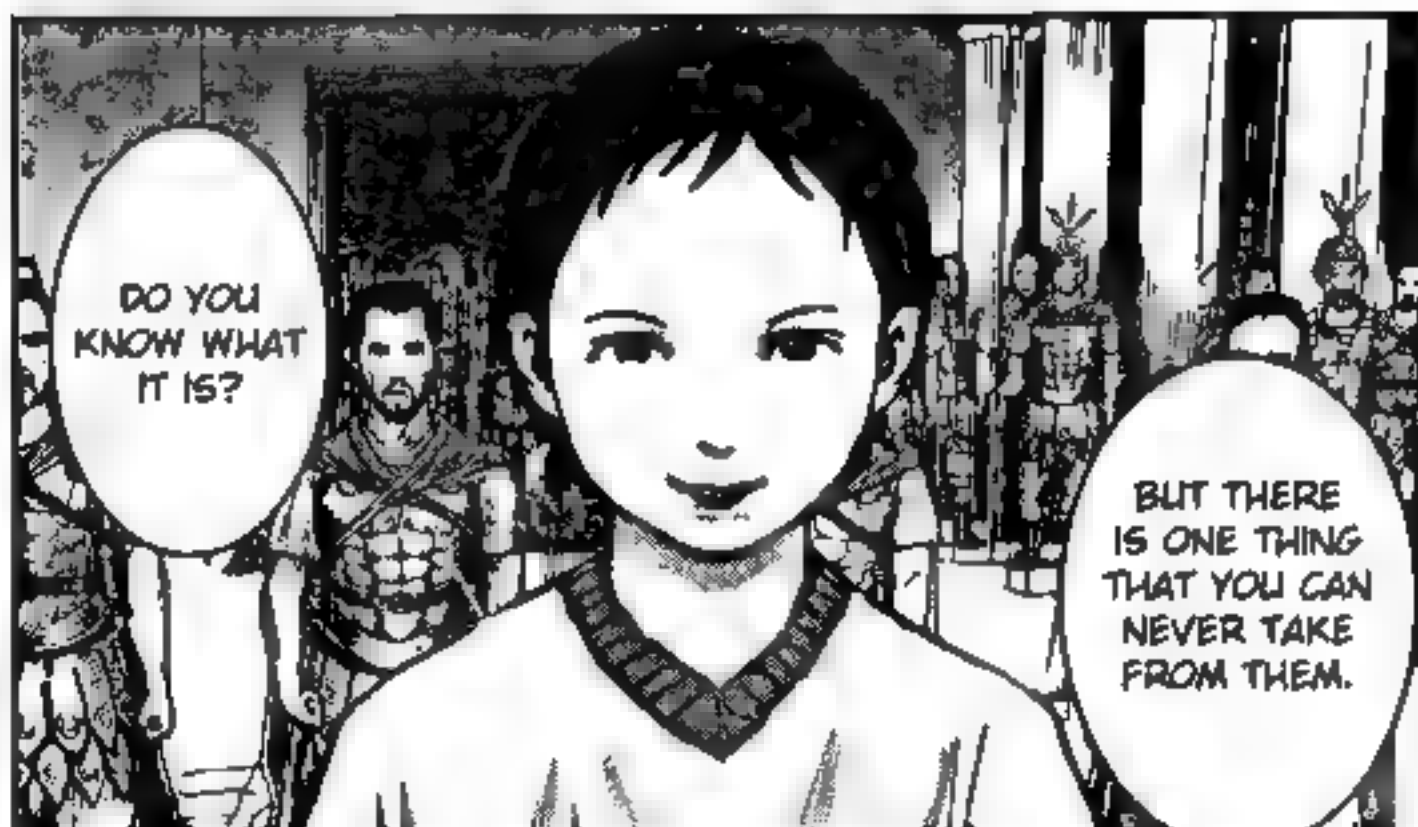


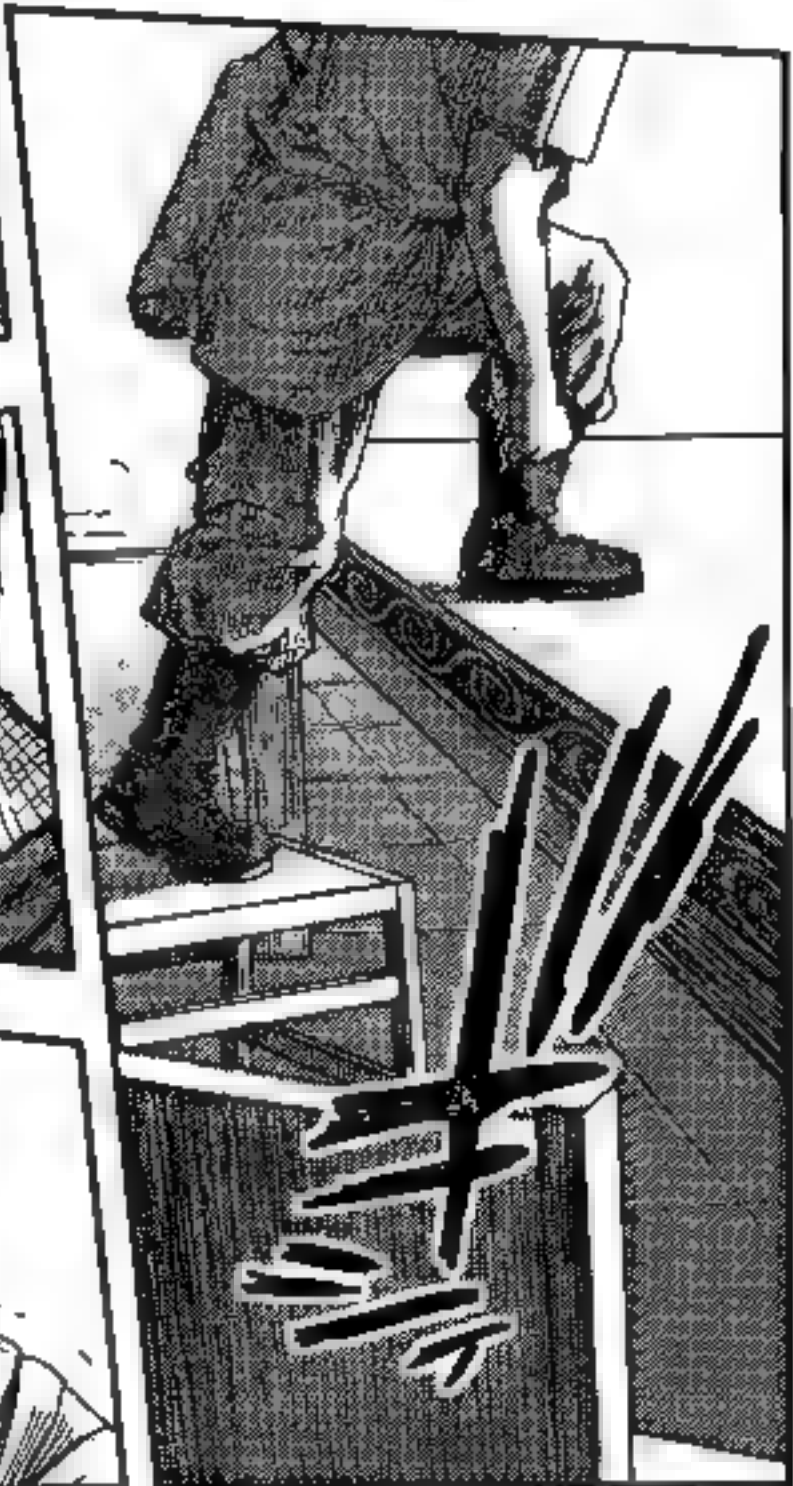














TO TOUCH
THE GODS.

GETTING ON
A TABLE IS
NOT ENOUGH

IF HE HAS THE
COURAGE TO TAKE
THE FIRST STEP!

BUT EVEN
A KID CAN
LOOK DOWN
ON ROME,



BAAL
WILL NOT
FORGIVE
YOU FOR



HUMILIATING
CARTHAGE!



IT'S FOR
EXECUTING
PUNISHMENT
ON YOU
PRIDE-BLOATED
ROMANS THAT
HE BROUGHT
ME HERE.

I, HIS
OWN SON!



YOU CAN STRUT
ALL YOU WANT
AS IF YOU WERE
GODS.

IN THE END,
YOU'RE
NOTHING BUT
IMBECILES!
YOU GET
STUNNED BY
WHAT A MERE
SMALL CHILD
THINKS.





IT'S GODS
GO DOWN
WITH IT.



WHEN
A COUNTRY
FALLS
...



LIKE THIS
PATHETIC
DEITY,

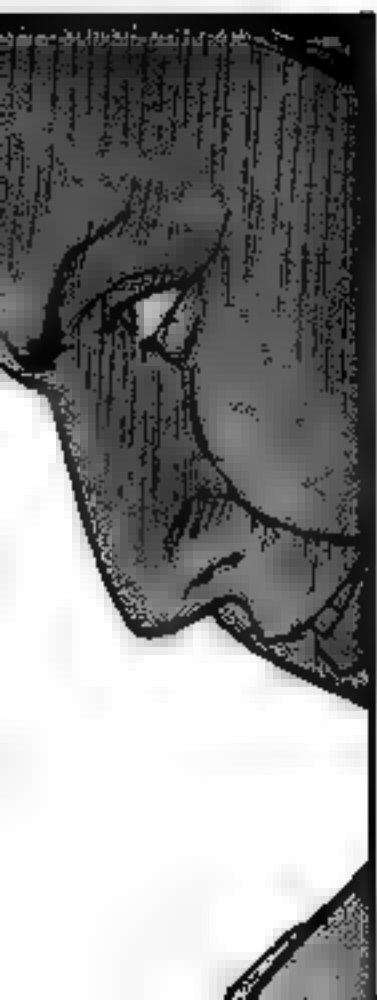
ONCE QUITE
FEARSOME,
LAUNCHING
A STORM
CAPABLE OF
SENDING 100 000
ROMAN NAVY
SOLDIERS TO
THE BOTTOM OF
THE SEA...

NOW
REDUCED TO
MANIPULATING
A PLINY AND
GHASTLY KID!



I DON'T WANT
TO HAVE YOU
KILLED LIKE
A DOG IN FRONT
OF YOUR
COMPATRIOTS.

ENOUGH OF
THIS COMEDY,
KID... MY
PATIENCE
HAS LIMITS.





WAIT!



**KILL
HIM
!!!**





WE WILL NOT
ABANDON THOSE
WHO HAVE THE
COURAGE TO
FACE THE ENEMY!

ROMANS,
DON'T UN-
DERESTI-
MATE THE
CARTHAGI-
NIANS!

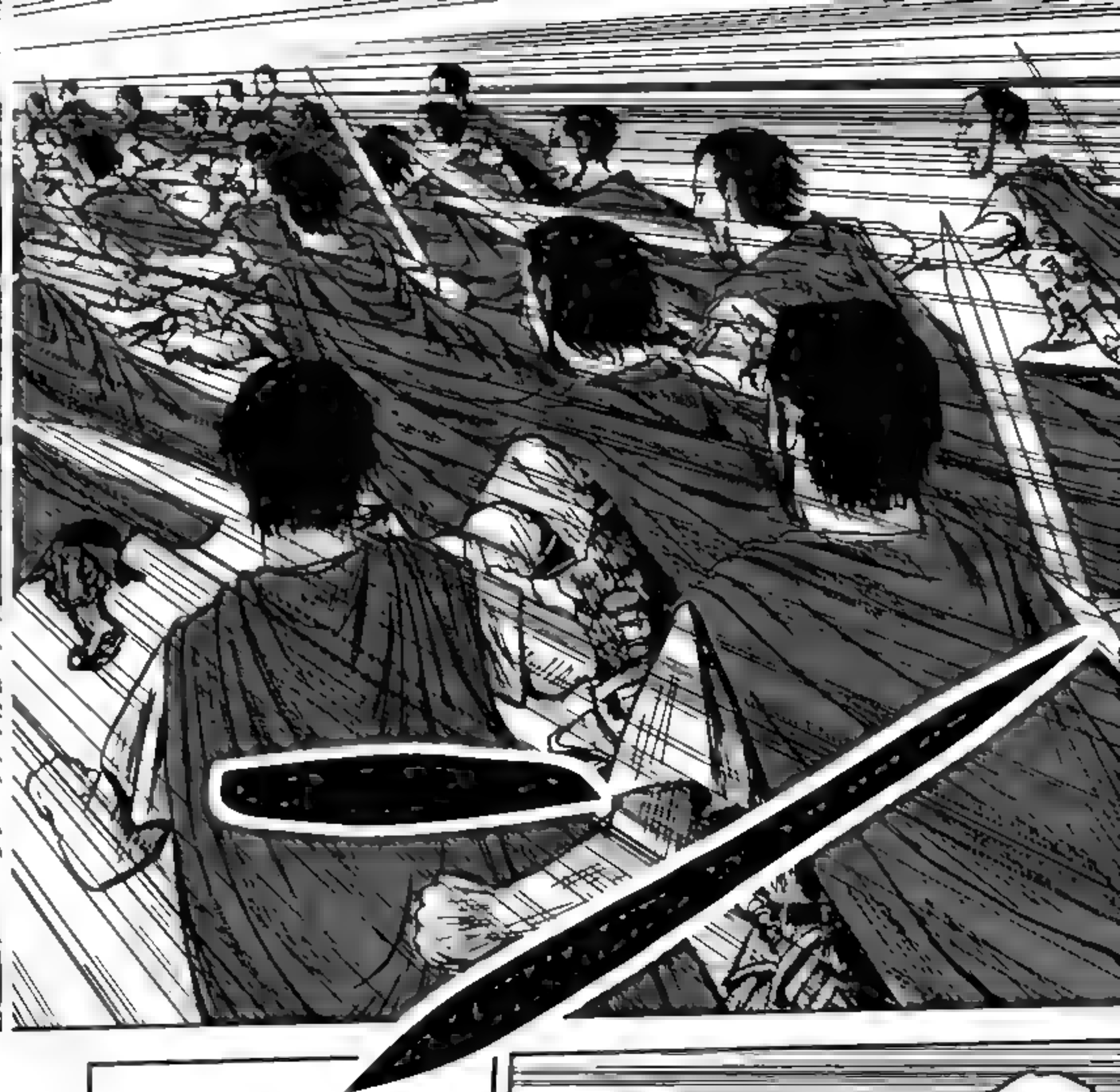


HAMILCAR,
ARE YOU
SURE ABOUT
FORESAKING
OUR
COUNTRY
JUST TO
SAVE YOUR
IMBECILE
SON?!



ARE YOU
AWARE OF
THE CONCE-
QUENCES
IF YOU
UNSHEATH
YOUR
SWORDS?





HE
PREDICTED
ALL THIS...



OF THOSE WHO
LOST EVERYTHING...



YES, IT'S THE
MADNESS...



THEY
ALL
LOST
THEIR
MINDS!

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
THEM?!



CARTHAGE
MAY FALL TO-
MORROW BLIT
THE RAGE OF
ITS MEN WILL
NEVER FADE!

YOU KILL
THIS BOY AND
100 000 RO-
MAINS WILL DIE
IN RETURN!



THEY'RE
INSANE!



WE CAN'T
LET HIM DIE.

WHO KNOWS,
MAYBE ONE
DAY, HE WILL
CONQUER ROME
AT THE HELM
OF OUR ARMY!



HANNIBAL IS
A GIFT FROM
BAAL...

A GLEAM OF HOPE
OFFERED BY THE
GODS TO OUR AGONIZED
CARTHAGE...



V-VERY WELL...
I WON'T INSIST
ANYMORE.
EVERYONE, PUT
YOUR SWORDS
BACK IN THEIR
SHEATHS!

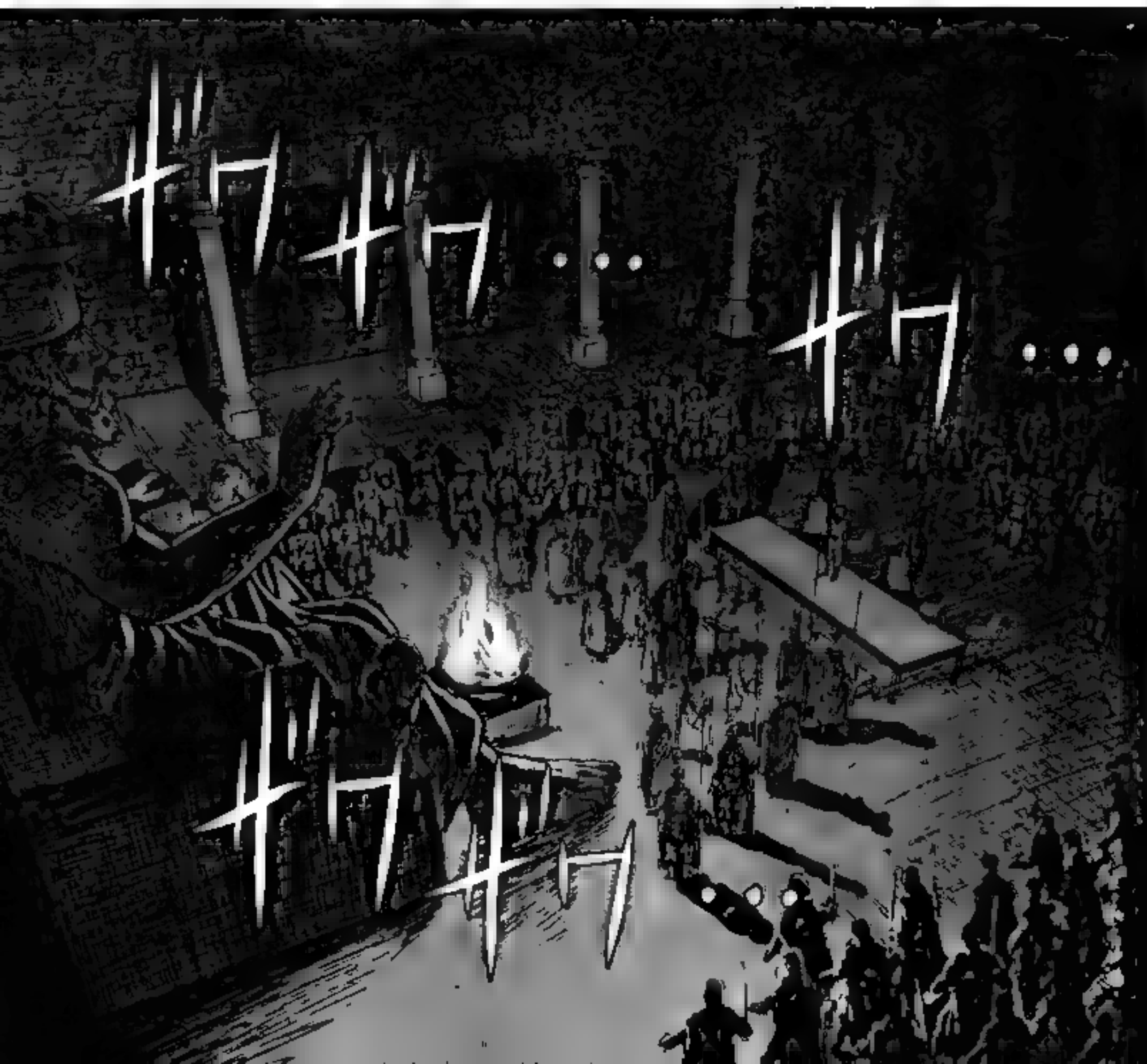


IT'S
UP TO
YOU.

AND I AM
NOT SURE WE
WILL STAY
ALIVE TO
WITNESS IT.

CONSUL,

STAY THIS
COURSE AND
TOMORROW A NEW
WAR WILL BEGIN.



IN ORDER TO
AWAKEN THE
WARRIOR'S SPIRIT
OF THE ALREADY
SURRENDERED
SOLDIERS?

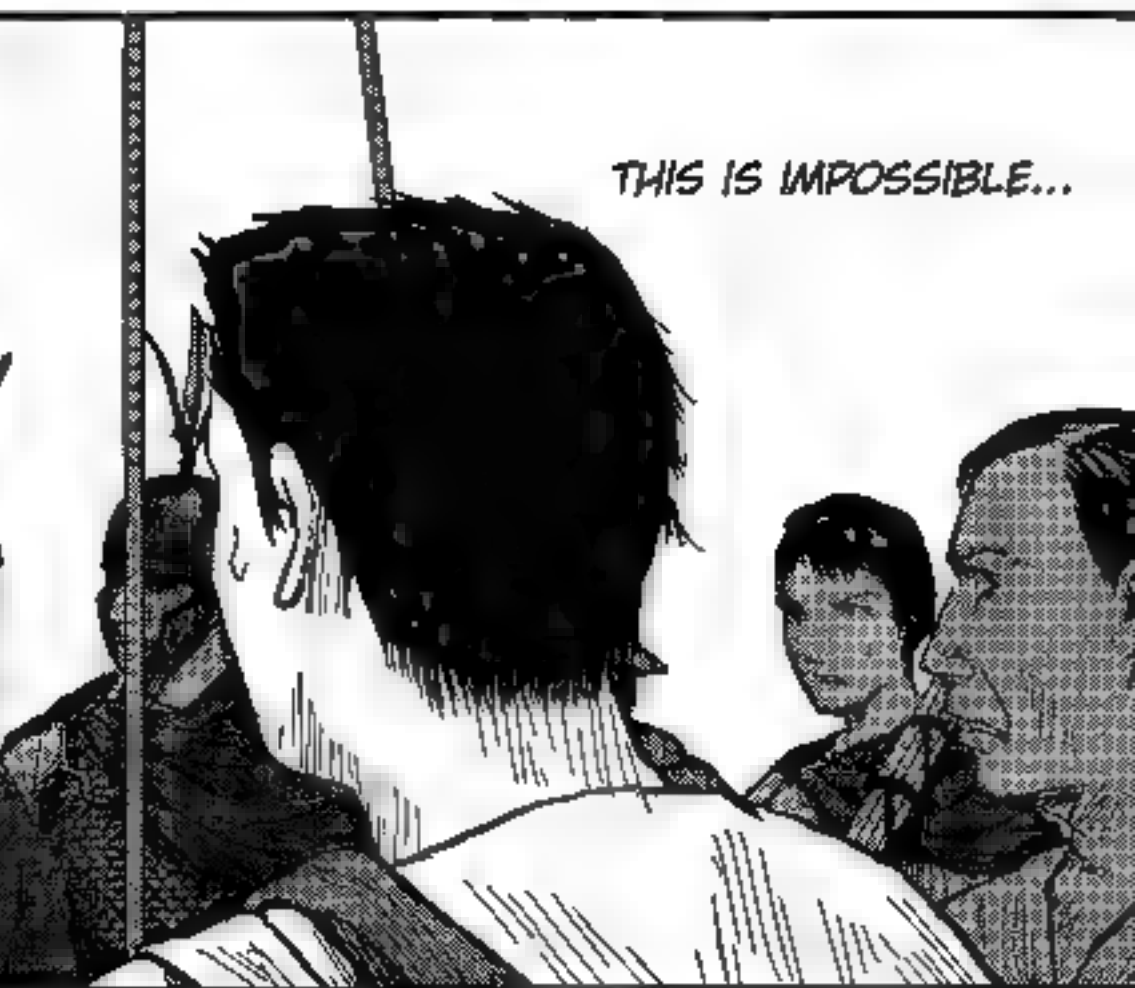
COULD THIS KID HAVE
INTENTIONALLY RISKED
HIS OWN LIFE



A 12-YEAR-OLD
KID IS USUALLY
INCAPABLE OF
SUCH A SCHEME!



THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE...



W-WHO IS THIS KID?



THE TYRANNY
OF ROME HAS
AWAKENED
THE MONSTER



AND HE WAS
ABOUT TO BE
THE ROMAN
ARMY'S WORST
NIGHTMARE

ON THAT
DAY,
HANNIBAL
BARCA
WAS BORN





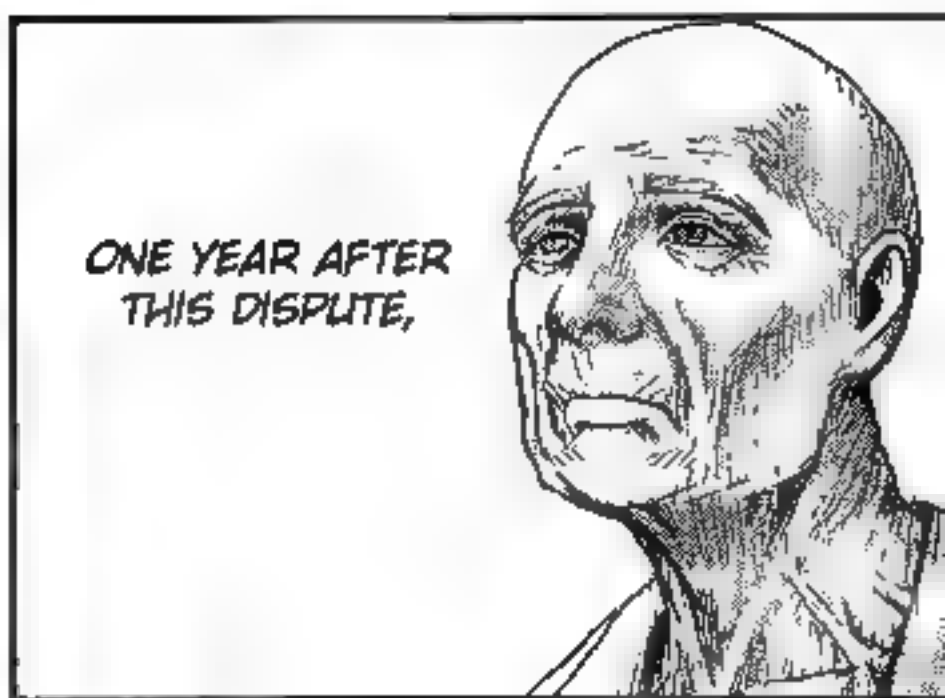
I DIDN'T THINK
THAT I'D SEE THE
DAY WHEN SOMEONE
WOULD EVENLY
CLASH WITH HIM.



HANNIBAL
BARCA, THE
MONSTER OF
CARTHAGE...



BOO!



ONE YEAR AFTER
THIS DISPUTE,



THE HEAVENS HAVE
DECIDED TO SEND ROME
A GENIUS CAPABLE OF
COMPETING WITH THE
MONSTER!

HI HI!

同時代を生きた
もう一人の英雄が...!

TO BE
continued!

ad astra

SCIPIO TO HANNIBAL

CREATED BY MIHACHI KAGANO

HISTORICAL NOTES

GIVEN THE ACCURACY OF HISTORICAL EVENTS IN THIS MANGA, I FELT THE POTENTIAL OF DEDICATING A PAGE OR TWO FOR EACH CHAPTER IN ORDER TO MENTION MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE EVENTS THAT OCCUR IN IT AND THIS IS ONLY FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE MANGA AND ALSO TO APPRECIATE AND ENJOY IT MORE. HOWEVER, THE MANGA'S NARRATIVE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THE READER TO UNDERSTAND THE SETTING AND THE STORY WITHOUT RESORTING TO OUTSIDE SOURCES.

* * *

I WILL QUOTE INFORMATION FROM THE NET (WIKIPEDIA, ETC...) AND FROM HISTORY BOOKS ABOUT THE MATTER. I MAY CHOOSE LONG QUOTES BUT IT'S UP TO YOU TO READ IT OR NOT. WELL, THINK OF IT AS A SUPER EXTENDED TRANSLATOR'S NOTE OR FURTHER READINGS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO READ!

* * *

NOT ALL THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS PAGE CAN BE CONSIDERED COMPLETELY TRUE.

EPISODE 1: THE BIRTH OF A MONSTER

CHARACTERS: In this section, I will introduce the important characters in the chapter (and will only mention information that are related to the events in the chapter) even if they are side characters. In fact, I will not talk about the main characters (Hannibal and Scipio) at all that's what the manga is about!

HAMILCAR BARCA: The father of Hannibal, was a general of the Carthaginian army in Sicily during the last years of the First Punic War. After the war, He also fought the revolted mercenaries. Eventually, he defeated them. He was in disagreement with Hanno the Great when the latter showed no interest in fighting a naval war against the Romans. Hanno the Great was an aristocrat whose wealth was amassed by conquering Africa. And he wanted to keep doing that instead of fighting the Romans. His concern for his personal interests may be one of the reasons the Carthaginians lost the Battle of Aegadian Islands, (I'm mentioning him here because I think Hamilcar was referring to him in page 8. He was the one leading the Carthaginians forces in the Battle of Aegadian Islands after all.)

Lutatius (Gaius Lutatius Catulus) was a Roman statesman and naval commander in the First Punic War. He led the Romans to victory in The Battle of the Aegadian Islands, the battle which closed the curtain on the First Punic War, and against Hanno the Great. The peace treaty was named after him

THE PEACE TREATY [aka The Treaty of Lutatius]

Peace Terms:

- * Carthage evacuates Sicily and the small islands west of it (Aegadian Islands).
- * Carthage returns their prisoners of war without ransom, while paying a heavy ransom on their own.
- * Carthage refrains from attacking Syracuse and her allies.
- * Carthage transfers a group of small islands north of Sicily (the Aeolian Islands and Ustica) to Rome.
- * Carthage evacuates all of the small islands between Sicily and Africa
- * Carthage pays a 2,200 talent (66 tonnes/145,000 pounds) of silver indemnity in ten annual installments, plus an additional indemnity of 1,000 talents (30 tonnes/66,000 pounds) immediately.

Wikipedia

...Lutatius was ready enough to listen to the proposal, because he was fully aware that the resources of Rome were at the lowest ebb from the strain of the war; and eventually it was his fortune to put an end to the contest by a treaty of which I here give the terms. "Friendship is established between the Carthaginians and Romans on the following terms, provided always that they are ratified by the Roman People. The Carthaginians shall evacuate the whole of Sicily; they shall not make war upon Hiero, nor bear arms against the Syracusans or their allies. The Carthaginians shall give up to the Romans all prisoners without ransom. The Carthaginians shall pay to the Romans in twenty years 2200 Euboic talents of silver."

*Polybius, The Histories, Book I
translated by Evelyn S. Shuckburg*

THE MERCENARIES' REBELLION AND THE SEIZURE OF SARDINIA AND CORSICA

... Carthage was still worse off than Rome; she was in equal distress, and being the conquered party had to pay every year a part of the heavy tribute[...] . The Carthaginians, moreover, were obliged to pay their mercenaries who came from Sicily; but they had no money, and their state was badly governed. [...] Had they followed the advice of Hamilcar, had they not spared their wealthy citizens, and had they made but one more great effort, they might have paid off their mercenaries and formed a new army. Instead of this, they foolishly tried to negotiate with those barbarians [...]. The consequence was that it broke out in open rebellion. [...]

The rebels were also encouraged and supported by Italian deserters, who feared lest they should be delivered up to the Romans. [...] Carthage was brought to the brink of destruction; and not only Libya, but ancient Phoenician colonies, such as Hippo, Clupea, and Utica also revolted. [...] The war lasted for three years and four months. At length, under the command of the great Hamilcar, [...] the Carthaginians succeeded in suppressing the insurrection and destroying the rebels. The Carthaginians had declared the revolted towns in Africa in a state of blockade. [...]

During this war in Africa, the mercenaries in Sardinia [...] had likewise revolted, and had massacred the Carthaginian colonists in the island. [...] The native Sards rose against the mercenaries, expelled them from the island, but at the same time refused obedience to Carthage. After the conclusion of the war against the rebels in Africa, when the Carthaginians made preparations to reconquer Sardinia, the Romans protected the Sards and took possession of the island, threatening the Carthaginians with a fresh war, if they would not give up their claims to Sardinia and Corsica, as those islands had placed themselves under the protection of Rome. The Carthaginians were too much exhausted to make any resistance; and Hamilcar [...] gave up what could not be retained [...]

The Carthaginians determined, for the present, not to wage war, but swore that they would take vengeance, and accordingly concluded a peace, by which they gave up Corsica and Sardinia, and paid an additional contribution of 1200 talents.

B. G. Niebuhr, *Lecturs On The History of Rome*.

EPISODE 2: QUESTION COMMON SENSE!

219 B.C. HISPANIA.

THE CAR-
THAGINIAN
ARMY HAD
INVADED
HISPANIA IN
ORDER TO
TAKE DOWN
SAGUNTUM.

ALMOST 20
YEARS AFTER
THE FIRST
WAR.



SAGUNTUM
WAS AN
ALLY TO THE
REPUBLIC.
GOING
AFTER HER
WAS DECLAR-
ING WAR
ON ROME
AGAIN!



HANNIBAL'S
REVENGE IS
ALREADY
IN MOTION!

ad extra A episode 002

EPISODE 21  QUESTION COMON SENSE

218 B.C, ROME.

THE CONFLICT
WITH THE GAULS
WAS FINALLY
OVER AND NOW
WE'RE TALKING
ABOUT A NEW
WAR!

THIS'LL
NEVER
END...

THINK AGAIN,
DISTANCE DOESN'T
MATTER WHEN
ONE OF OUR
ALLIES HAS BEEN
ATTACKED!

THAT'S
RIGHT, THESE
QUARRELS IN
HISPANIA HAVE
NOTHING TO DO
WITH US. .

TO THINK HE'S
PROVOKING
US JUST TO
FEEL BETTER
ABOUT
HIMSELF!

HE
DOESN'T
STAND
A CHANCE
AGAINST
ROME...

THIS
HANNIBAL
MUST BE
A FOOL!

→SIGH→
JUST POUR
ME ANOTHER
GLASS OF
WINE, WILL
YOU!



THE CARTHAGINIAN ARMY HAS BECOME NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF WEAKLINGS!

AND AS FAR AS WE KNOW, HAMILCAR, THE ONLY ENEMY WHO WAS REALLY ABLE TO WORRY OUR TROOPS HAS BEEN DEAD LONG TIME AGO.

THAT'S HISTORY

IN THE LAST 20 YEARS, ROME HAS IMMENSELY INCREASED IN POWER.

APPARENTLY, IN OUR FATHERS' ERA, CARTHAGE HAS GIVEN OUR ARMY A HARD TIME!

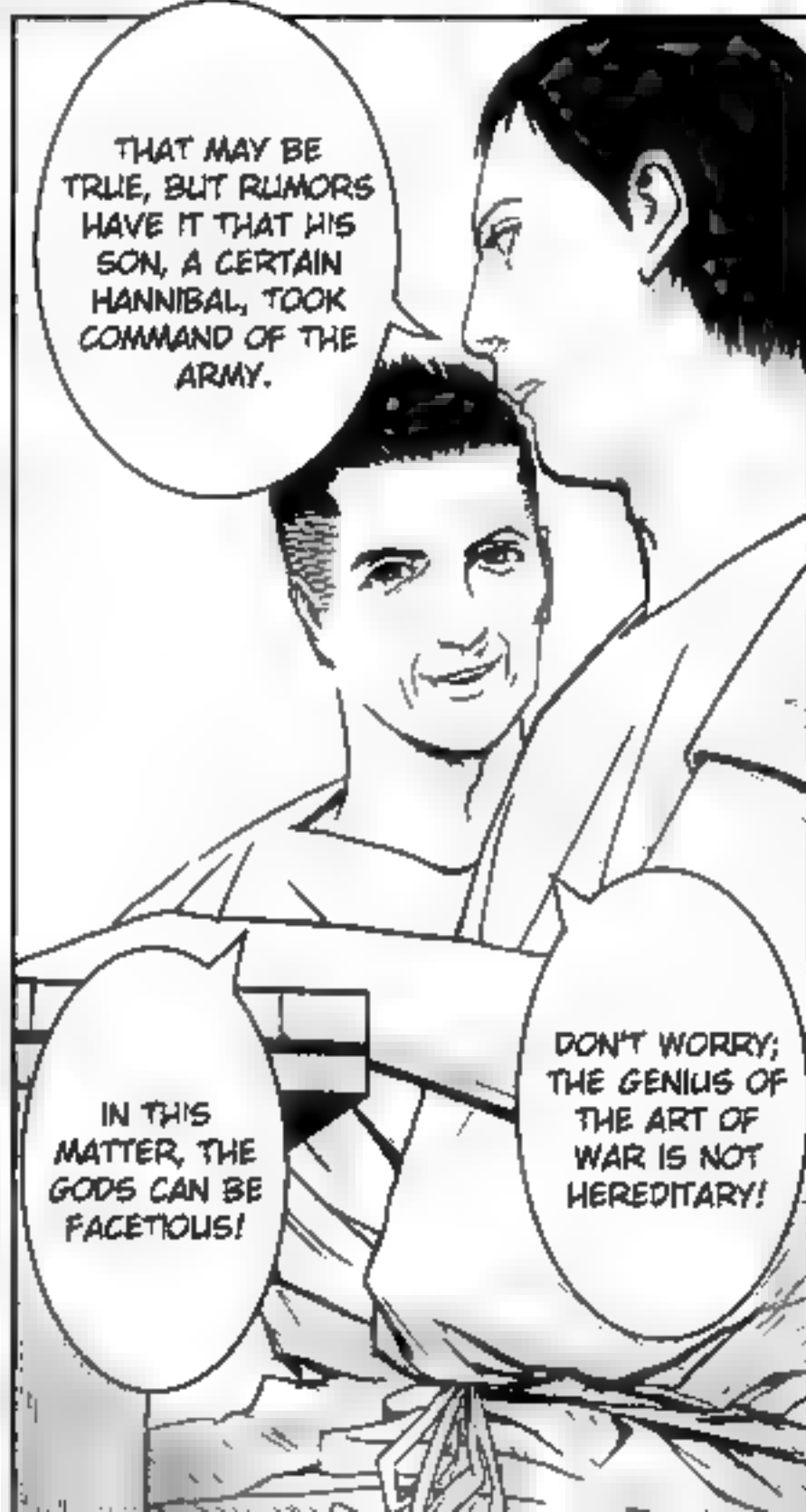


LOOK, THAT'S THE PROOF...



HAHA! I CAN SEE THAT...


EVEN IN ROME, THE GODS HAVE TRICKED OUR BEST STRATEGIST BY GIVING HIM A SON CURSED BY THE DEMON OF GAMES!



THAT MAY BE TRUE, BUT RUMORS HAVE IT THAT HIS SON, A CERTAIN HANNIBAL, TOOK COMMAND OF THE ARMY.

IN THIS MATTER, THE GODS CAN BE FACETIOUS!

DON'T WORRY; THE GENIUS OF THE ART OF WAR IS NOT HEREDITARY!



THE LOSER WILL
PAY FOR THE
WINNER FOR THE
REST OF HIS DAYS.

THIS TIME,
WE'LL PLAY
FOR DRINKS.


PUBLIUS CORNELIUS SCIPIO
PATRICIAN, CAVALRYMAN OF
THE ROMAN ARMY.



CAIUS LAELIUS
PLEBEIAN, INFANTRYMAN OF
THE ROMAN ARMY.

YOU WANT
ME TO BE
IN YOUR
DEPT UNTIL
YOU DIE?

T/N: A PLEBEIAN IS A MEMBER OF THE COMMON PEOPLE IN ANCIENT ROME, A COMMONER.



VERY WELL...
IF YOU LOSE,
I'LL JUST HELP
MYSELF TO THE
MONEY PURSE
YOU HAVE HAN-
GING FROM
YOUR BELT.

I'M NEITHER
A PATRICIAN
NOR A SON
OF A CONSUL!



FINALLY,
A GAME
WORTH
WATCHING!

OUT OF THE
QUESTION!
I DON'T HAVE
ENOUGH TO
HONOR SUCH
A DEBT.



I'LL ADD
ANOTHER RULE
THOUGH...

THE BASICS
REMAIN: WE
THROW THE
KNUCKLEBONES*,
CALCULATE THE
SUM OF POINTS,
AND THE ONE
WITH THE BIG-
GEST SCORE
WINS.



HOW IS
THAT?

BUT IN
RETURN,
WE'LL
CHANGE
THE RULES
A LITTLE
BIT.

* HERE, THE PLAYERS USE DICES WITH FOUR SIDES,
MADE FROM SHEEP'S LEG BONES.



I WILL TELL
YOU THAT I'M
GOING TO CHEAT.

IF YOU CAN'T STOP
ME FROM DOING SO
AND LOSE YOUR
PURSE, IT'S MY WIN.



SO ARE
YOU UP FOR
IT, CAIUS?

YOU'RE
FREE
TO GET
HELP.

USE ALL
THE HELP YOU
CAN GET TO
DETECT THE
TRICK IF YOU
HAVE TO.



WHAT?



HEHE, THIS IS GOING TO BE INTERESTING.

I'M COUNTING ON YOU, FRIENDS!

IF WE WIN, YOU'LL PAY ME A DRINK!



I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE!



DON'T WORRY ARIA. I'LL OFFER YOU A DRINK BUT ONLY IN EXCHANGE FOR A KISS!

EEH... ME TOO, I'M THIRSTY!



AS IF I'D USE THE DICE OF AN ENEMY WHO JUST CONFESSED LOUD AND CLEAR THAT HE'LL CHEAT!

I'M NOT AN IDIOT!

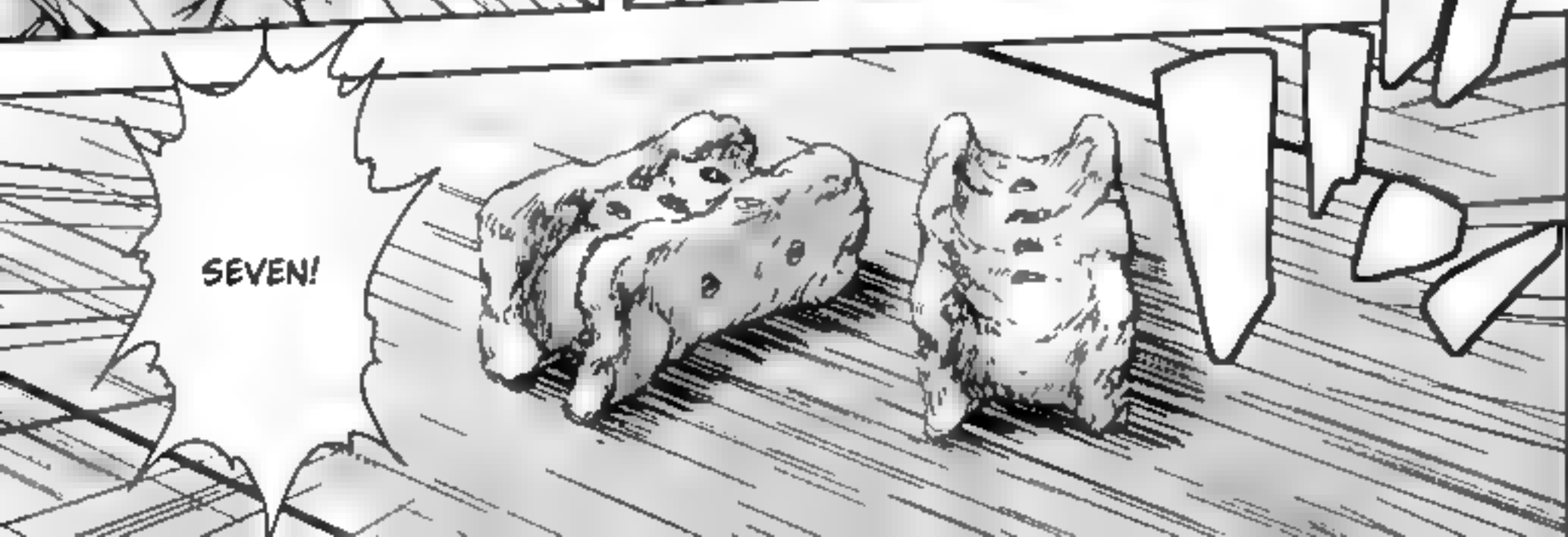
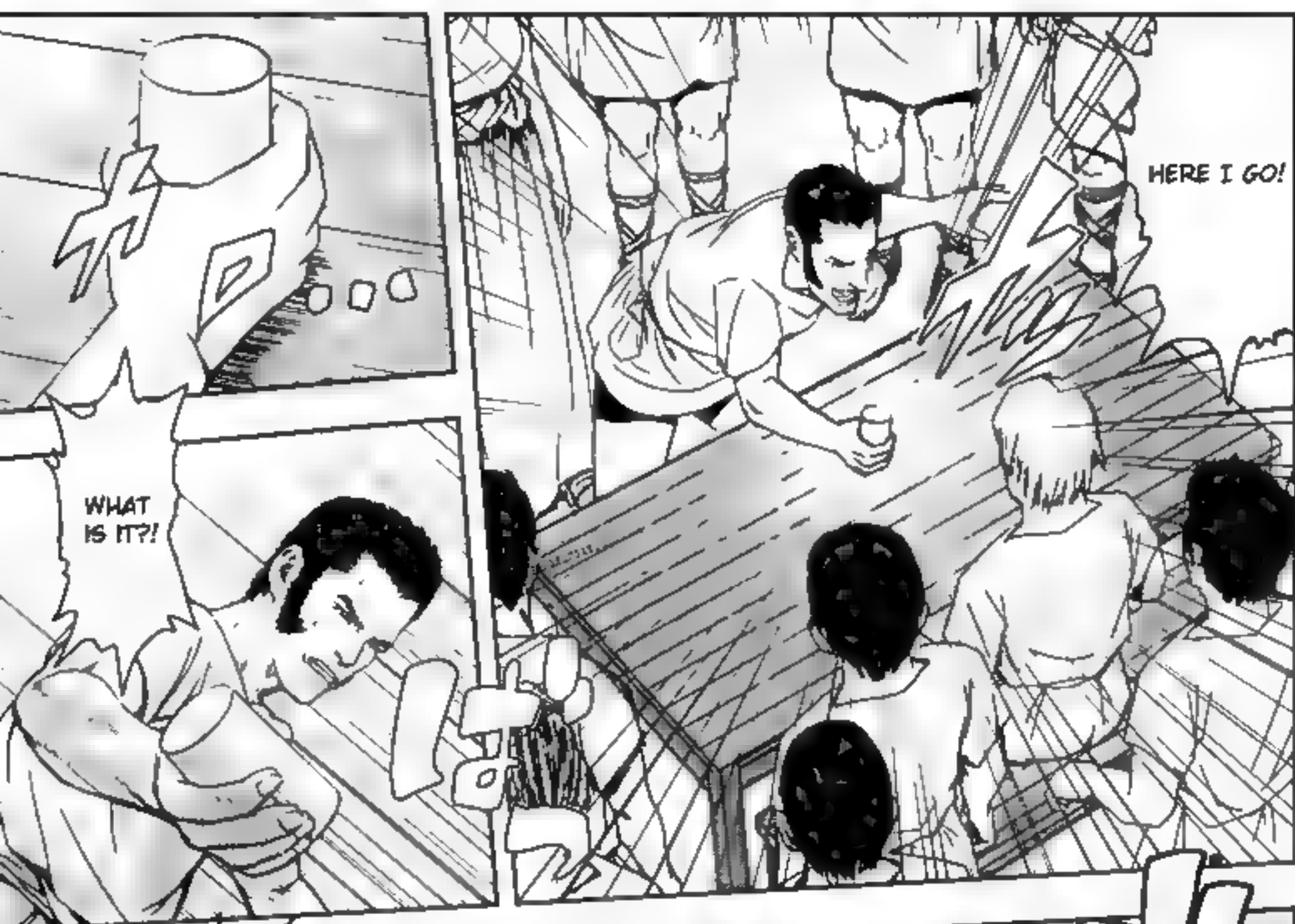
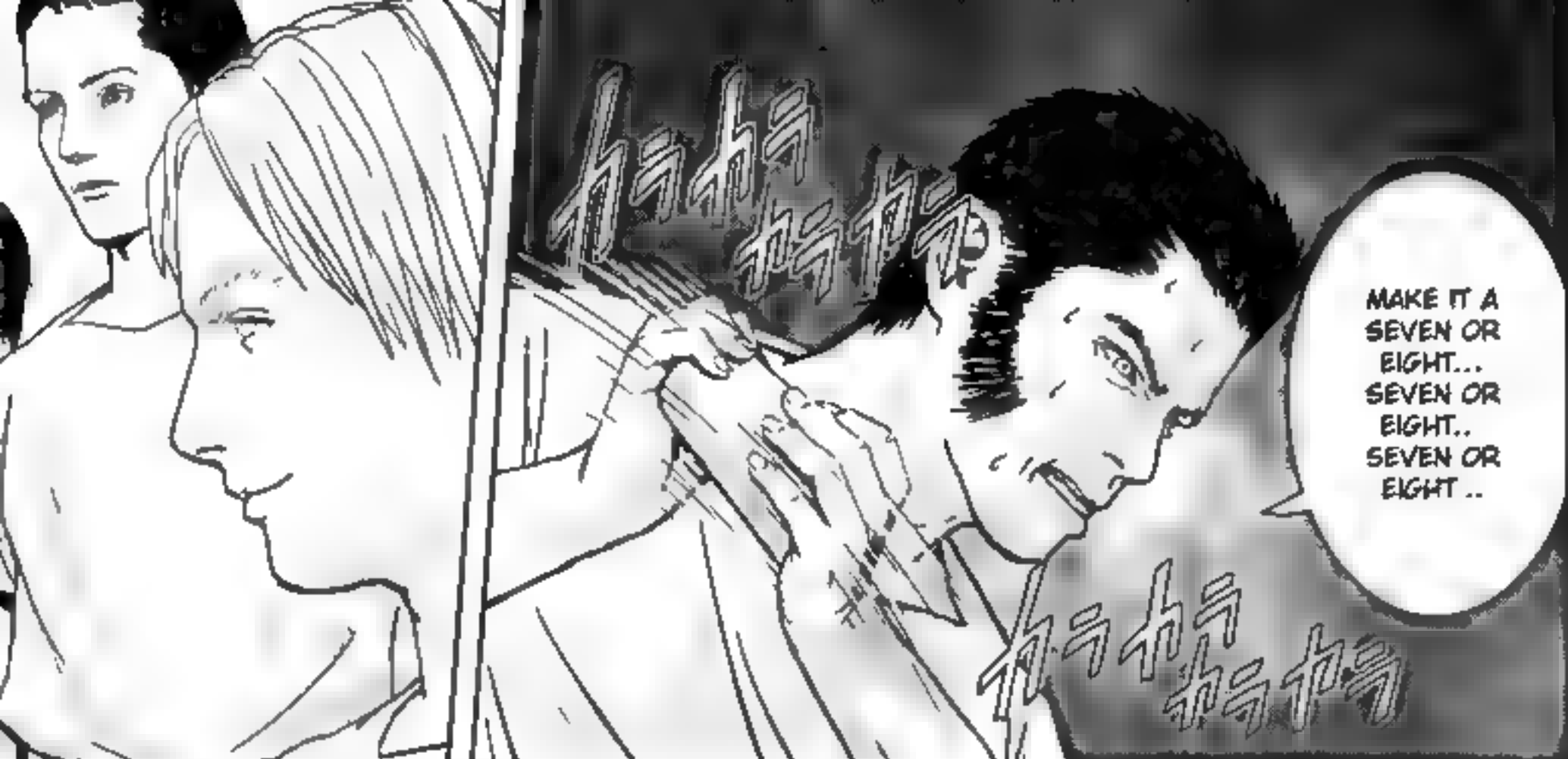


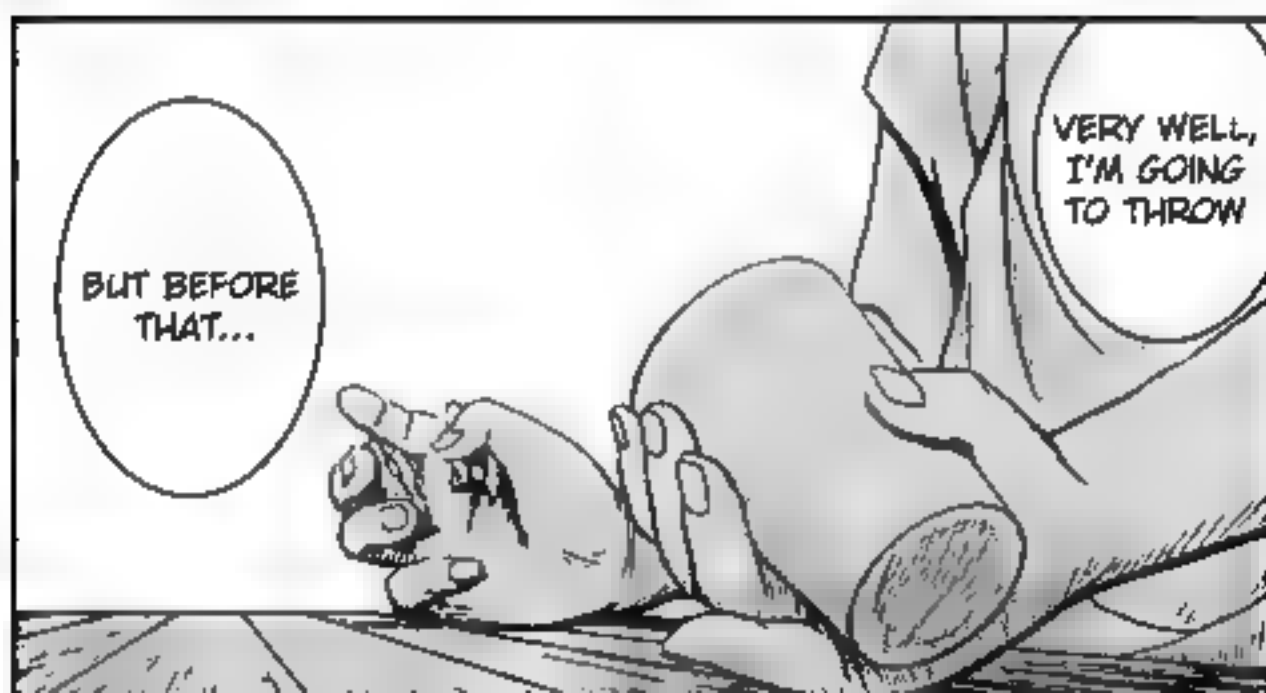
YOU GO FIRST, CAIUS.

DO YOU WANNA USE MY KNUCKLE-BONES?



YOU JOKING? I'LL PLAY WITH MINE OF COURSE!







YOU MUST BE WELL-INFORMED THANKS TO YOUR FATHER.

YES, WE'RE INTERESTED INDEED.



I'M SURE YOU'RE WONDERING ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING AND WHAT WILL THE SENATE'S DECISION BE, RIGHT?

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WAR AGAINST CARTHAGE!



LET'S HEAR HIM OUT, CAIUS. THIS CONCERNS US ALL.

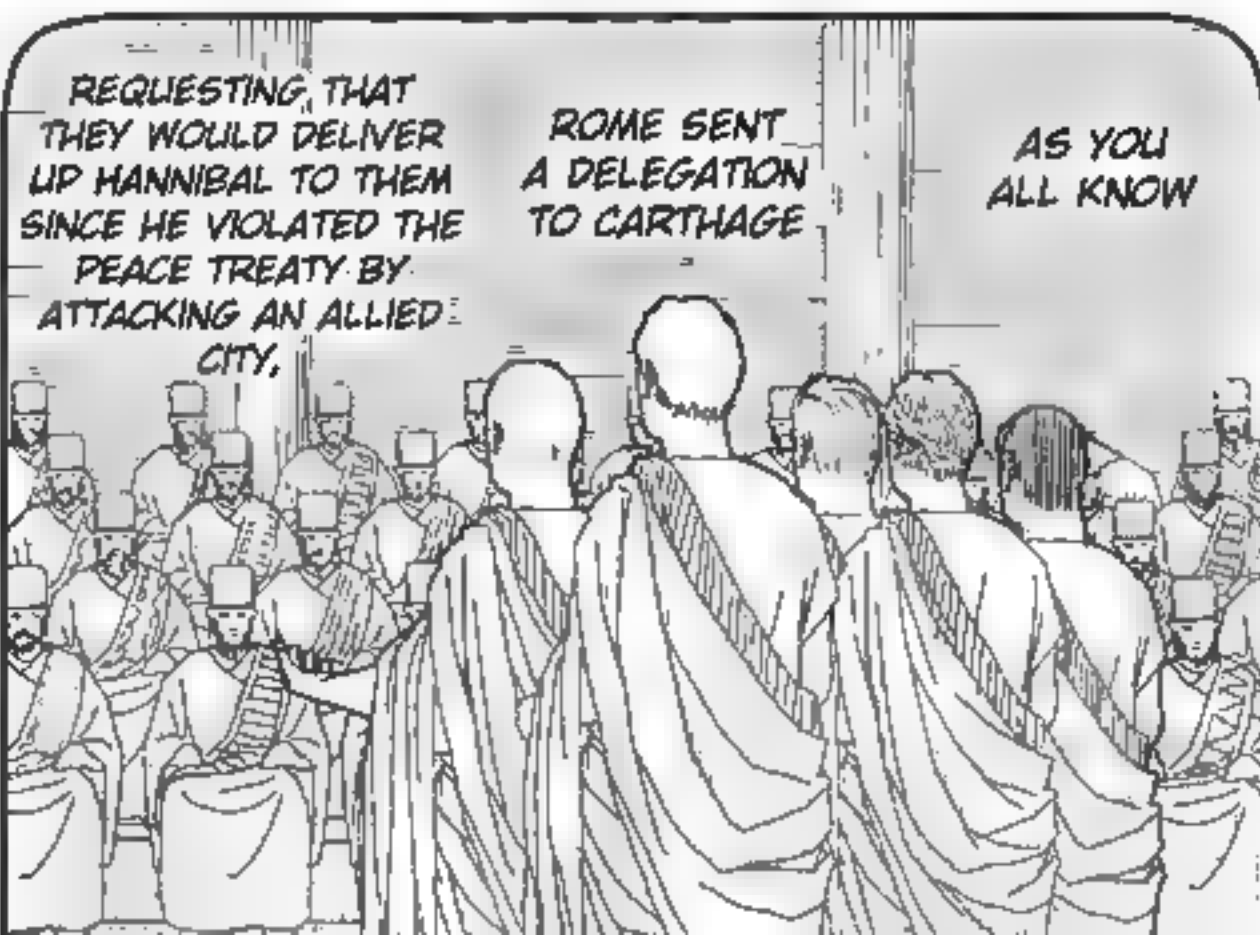
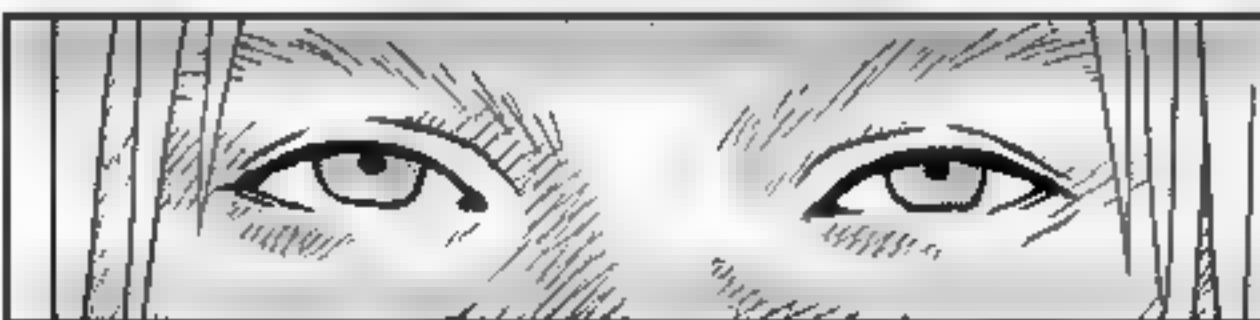


HE WANTS TO DISTRACT YOU SO HE CAN SMOOTHLY DO HIS TRICK!

DON'T LET HIM FOOL YOU!



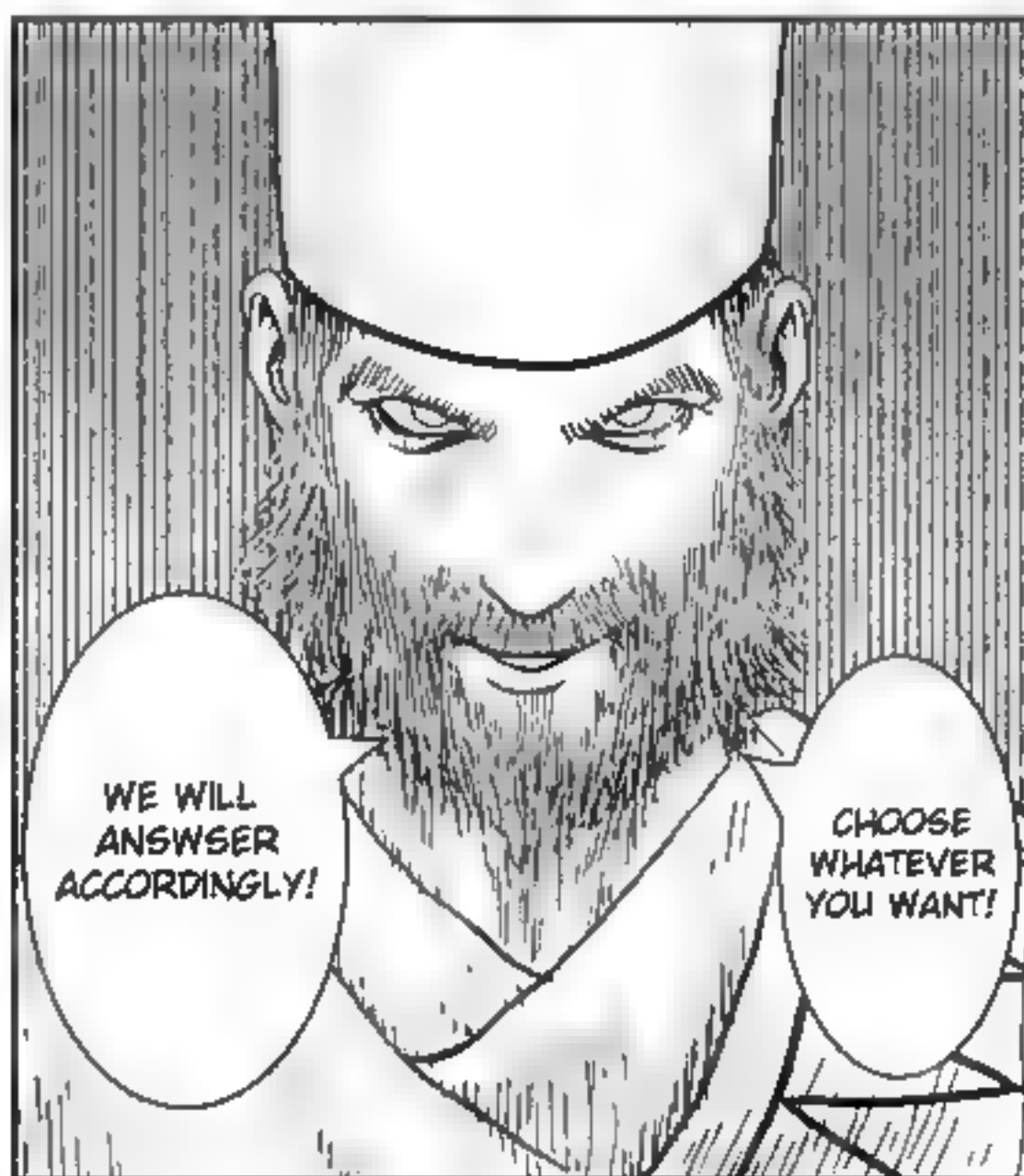
BUT WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW YET IS THAT THE CARTHAGENIAN SENATE HAVE FIRMLY REJECTED THIS REQUEST WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST FEAR.



REQUESTING THAT THEY WOULD DELIVER UP HANNIBAL TO THEM SINCE HE VIOLATED THE PEACE TREATY BY ATTACKING AN ALLIED CITY,

ROME SENT A DELEGATION TO CARTHAGE

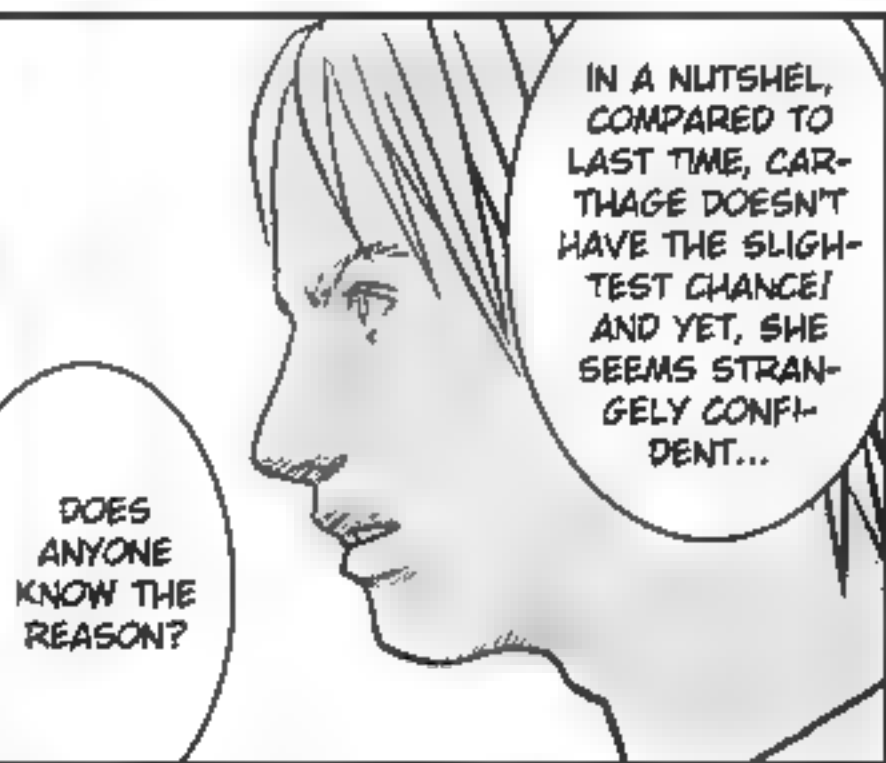
AS YOU ALL KNOW





ALL OF
CARTHAGE'S
TREASURES
WON'T SUFFICE
TO HIRE ENOUGH
MERCENARIES TO
FIGHT THEM ON
EQUAL TERMS.

ROME HAS
750 000
SOLDIERS
INCLUDING
ALLIES.



IN A NUTSHELL,
COMPARED TO
LAST TIME, CAR-
THAGE DOESN'T
HAVE THE SLIGH-
TEST CHANCE!
AND YET, SHE
SEEMS STRAN-
GELY CONFID-
DENT...

DOES
ANYONE
KNOW THE
REASON?



WANNA
TELL US
WHAT YOUR
KNUCKLE-
BONES
DOING
ON THE
TABLE?!

I BET
YOU'RE
TRYING TO
EXCHANGE
THEM WITH
MINE!

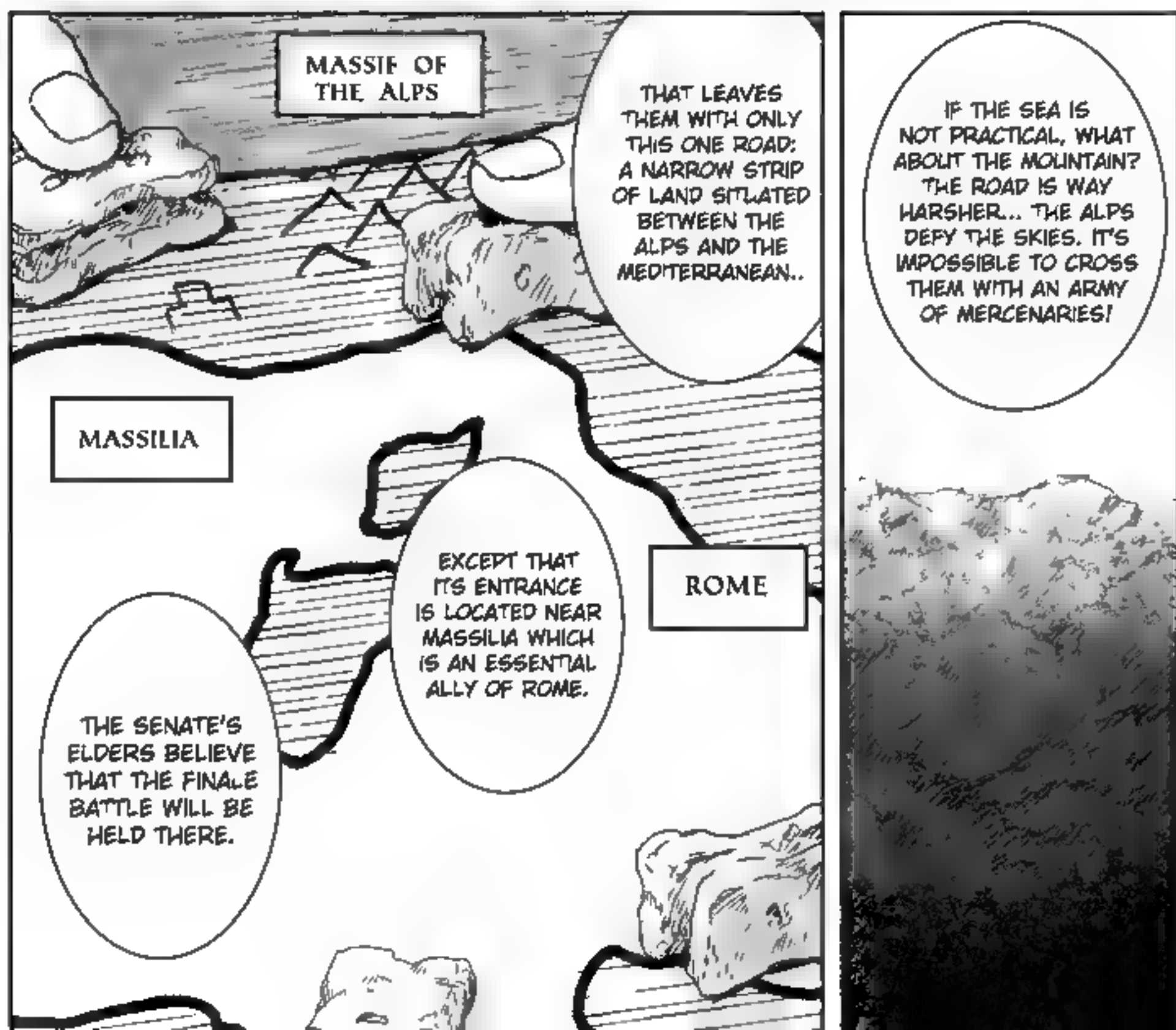
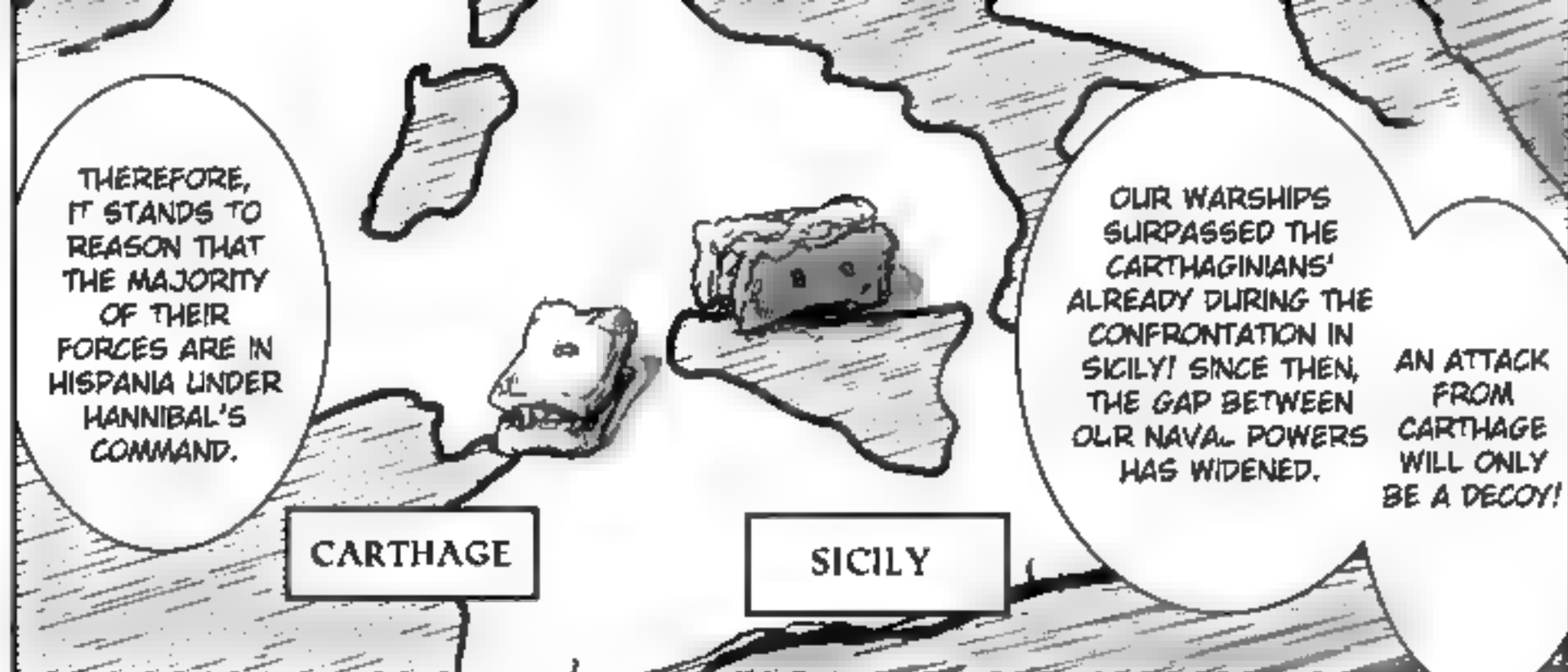
STOP YELLING
CAIUS, WILL
YOU?



ACCORDING
TO MY
FATHER
AND THE
OTHER
SENATES

OUR ENEMY
WOULD INTEND TO
ATTACK US FROM
BOTH THE NORTH
AND THE SOUTH
SIMULTANEOUSLY
IN ORDER TO
DEVIDE OUR
FORCES.

HUH?!
WHERE DID
THIS MAP
COME FROM?





AFTER ALL,
THEY WERE THE
ONES WHO STARTED
IT. I DON'T SEE WHY
THEY WOULD START
A CONFLICT WHICH
THEY ALREADY KNOW
THEY CAN'T WIN.



EVEN IF THERE
IS A SAFE ROAD,
CARTHAGE HAS
NO CHANCE AT
WINNING. FOR
THE MOMENT, NO
ONE CAN OVER-
POWER OUR
ARMY IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN.

THEN, PERHAPS
THE CARTHAGI-
NIANS HAVE
ANOTHER PLAN
IN MIND.



THOSE
ARE YOUR
KNUCKLE-
BONES!

STOP
RIGHT
THERE!



YOU'RE
DONE,
SCIPIO!

I CAN RE-
COGNIZE
THEM OUT
OF MIL-
LIONS!

I
ALREADY
MARKED
MINE!

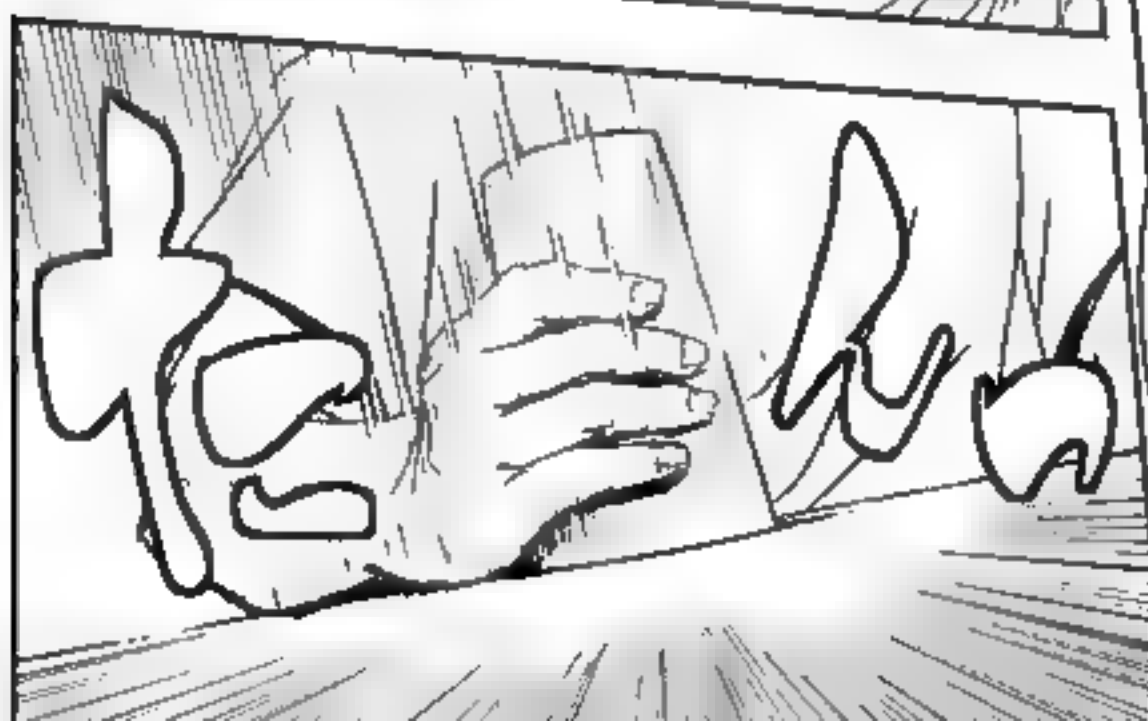


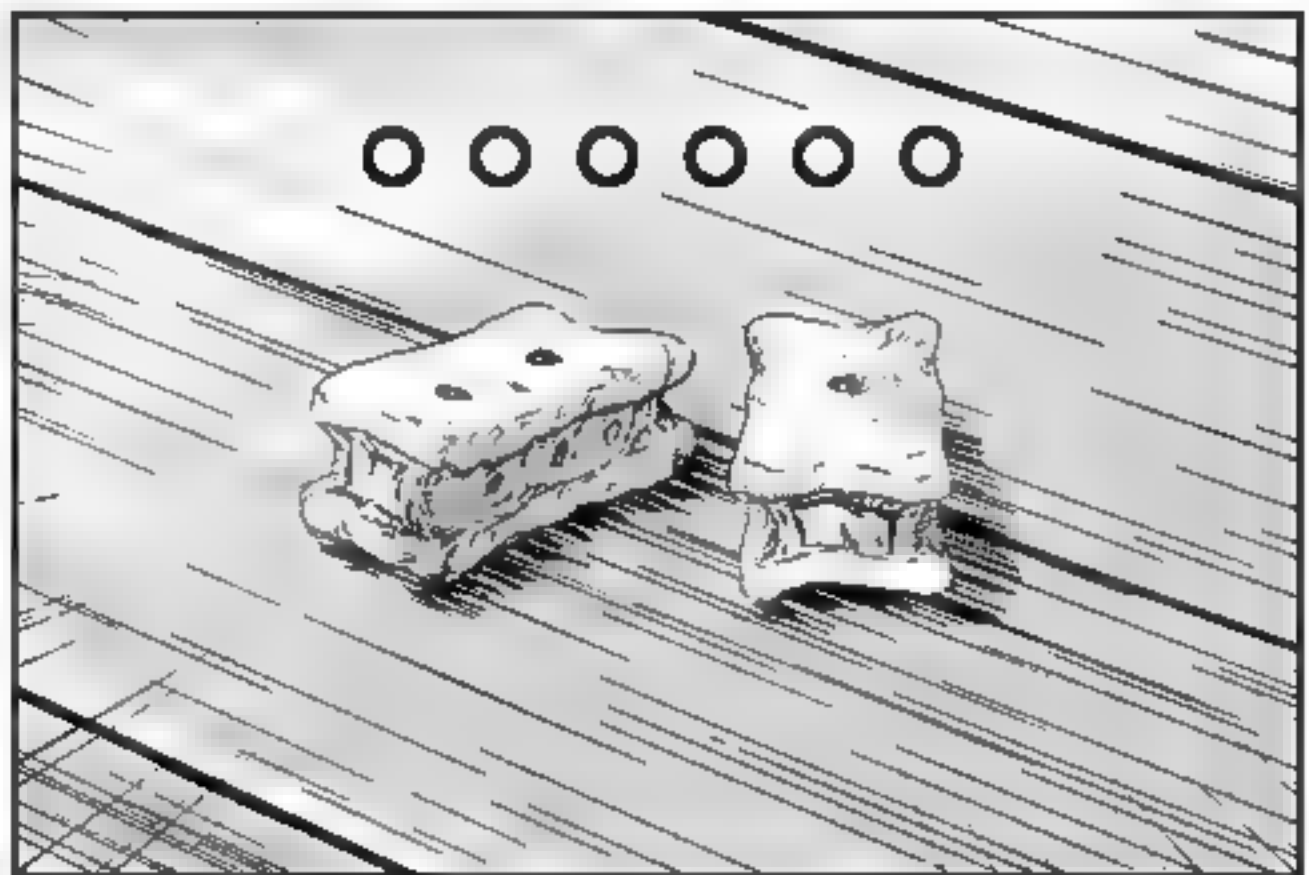
HAHAHA!
VICTORY
IS MINE!

WELL
DONE. YOU
FIGURED
IT OUT.



HUH?







HUH?

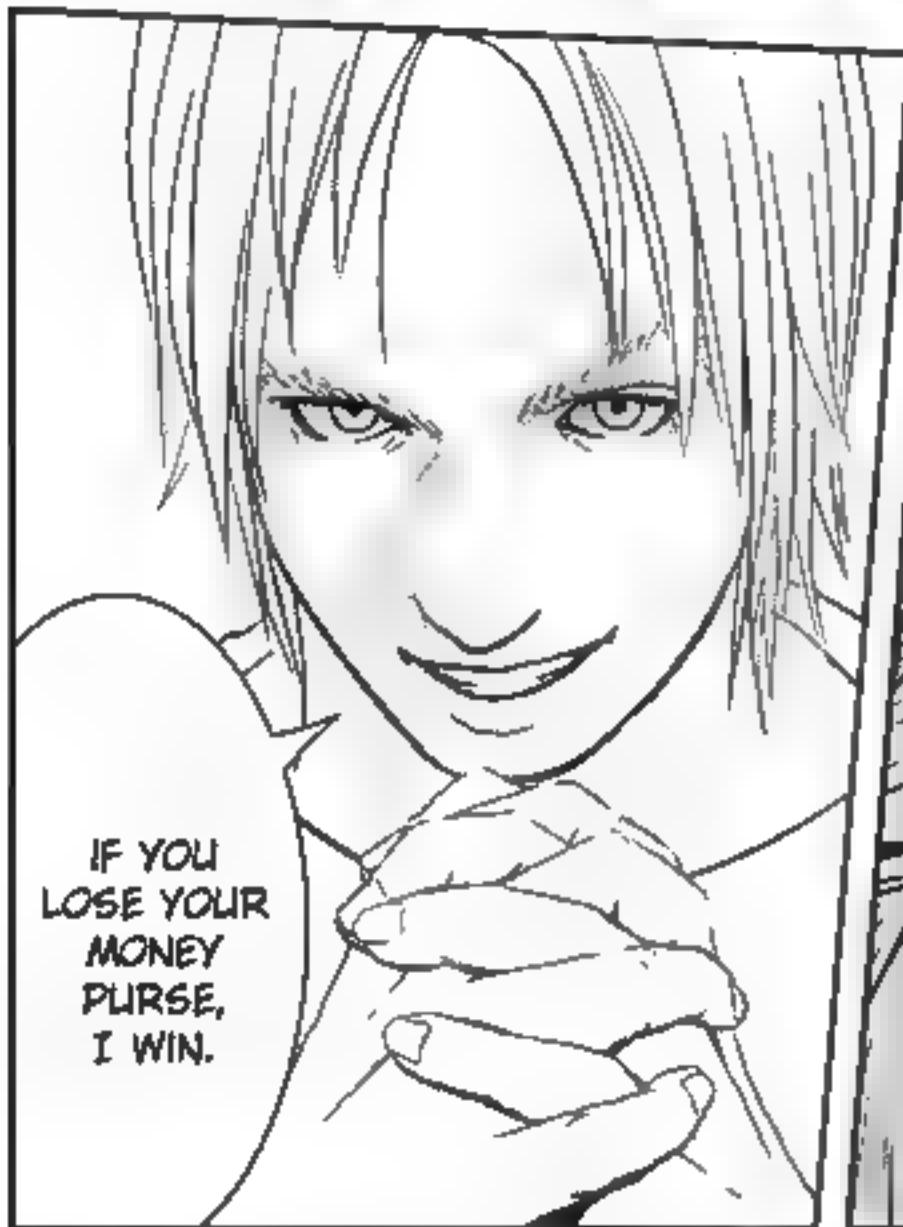


THE ONE
WHO LOST
IS YOU.



THIS
DEFEAT
IS GOING
TO COST
YOU
DEARLY,
SCPIO!

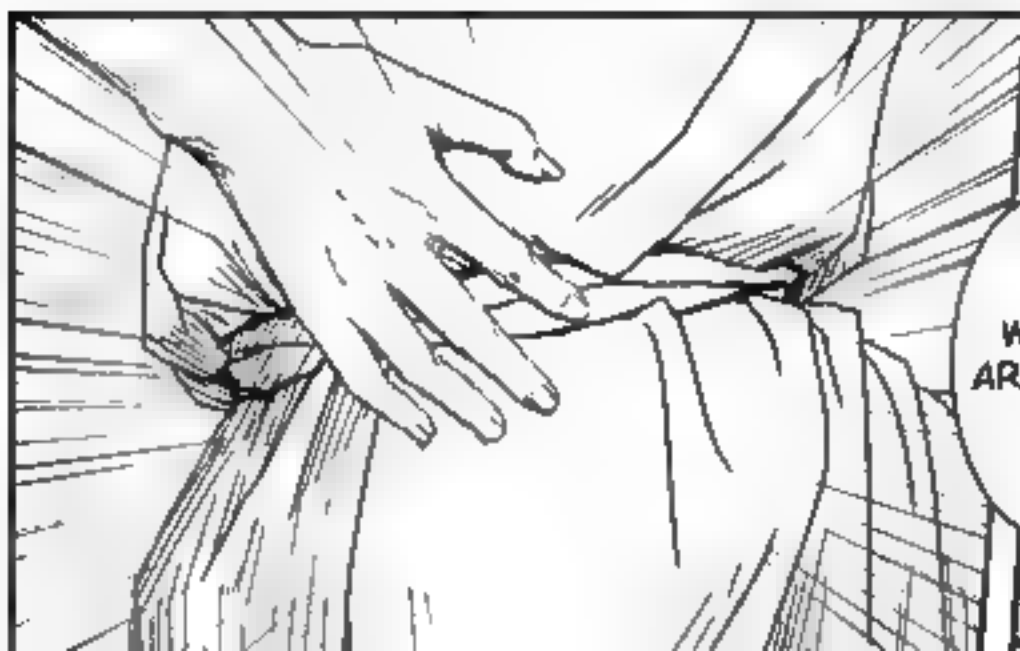
WELL
PLAYED,
CAIUS!



IF YOU
LOSE YOUR
MONEY
PURSE,
I WIN.

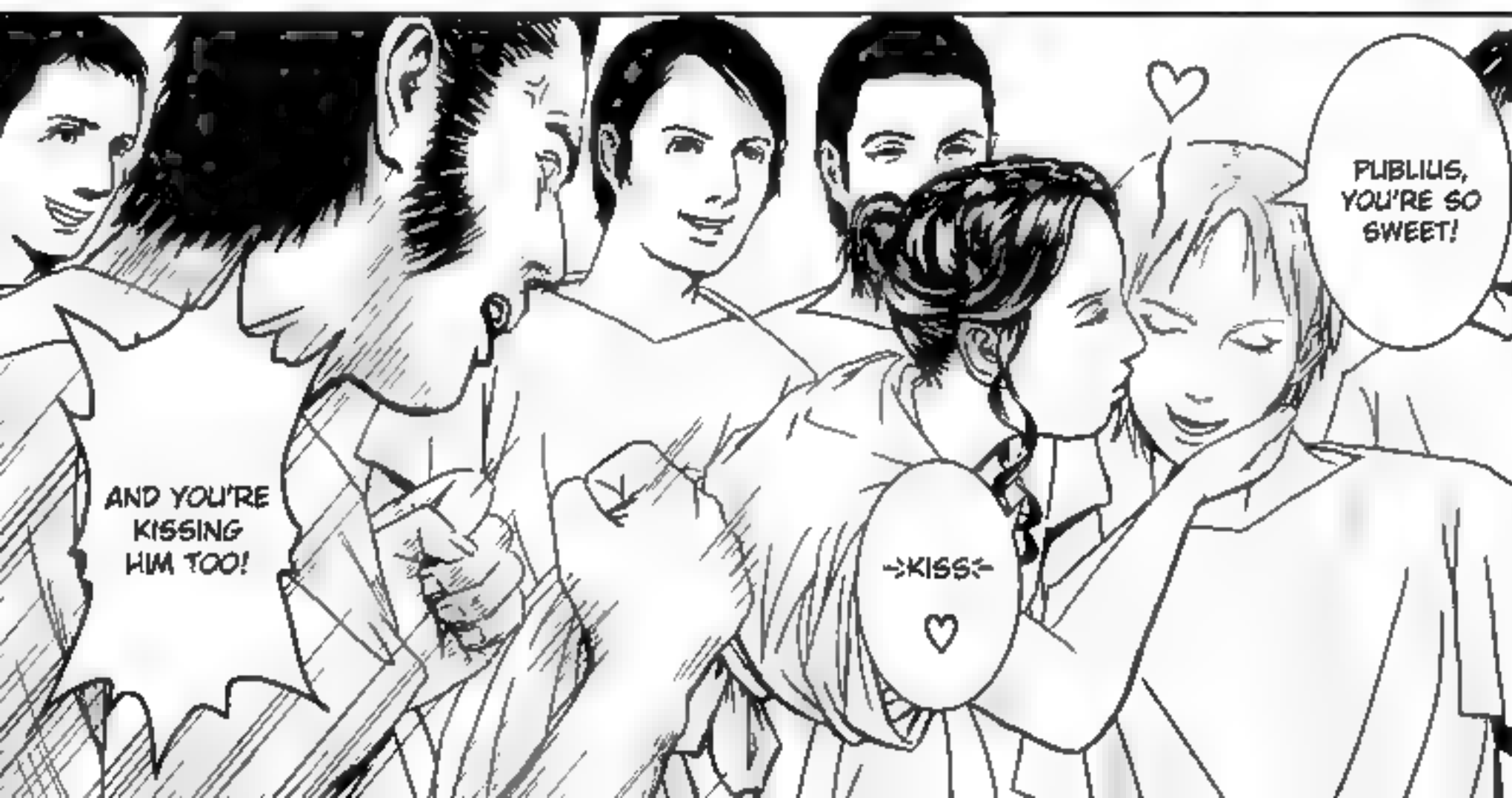


THE RULES
WERE CLEAR,
DEAR FRIEND.



WHAT
ARE YOU
T...







THE GAME
HAS BEEN
COMPLETELY
RUINED BY THIS
STUPID RULE!

I REFUSE
TO ACCEPT
THIS RESULT!
I WON!

YOU TWO MADE
A FOOL OUT OF
ME BUT I WON'T
LET THIS GO
JUST LIKE THAT!



COMMON
SENSE?

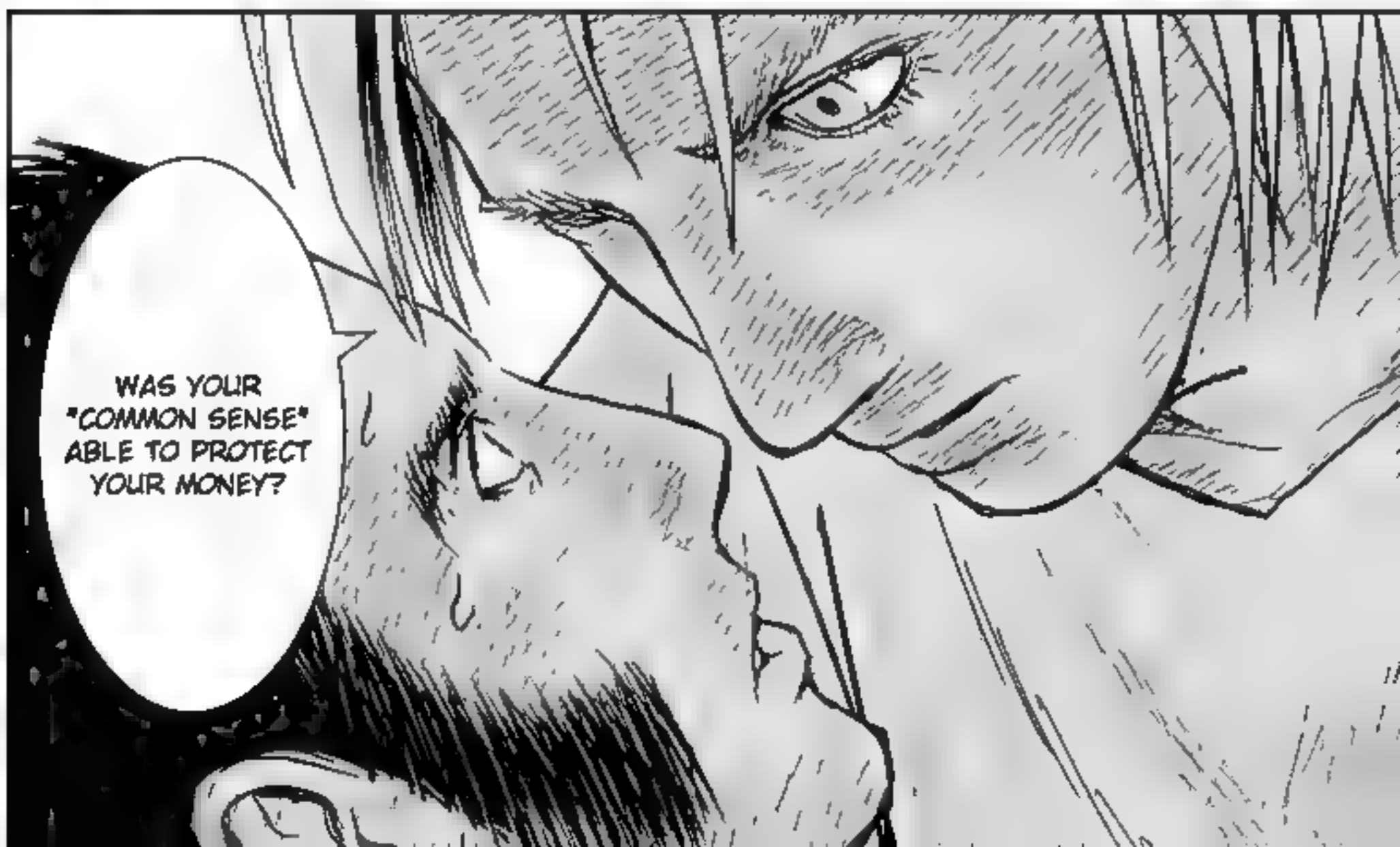


THE TURN
YOU PLAYED
ME DOESN'T
HAVE ANY
KIND OF
CHEATING IN
THE COMMON
SENSE OF
THE TERM.

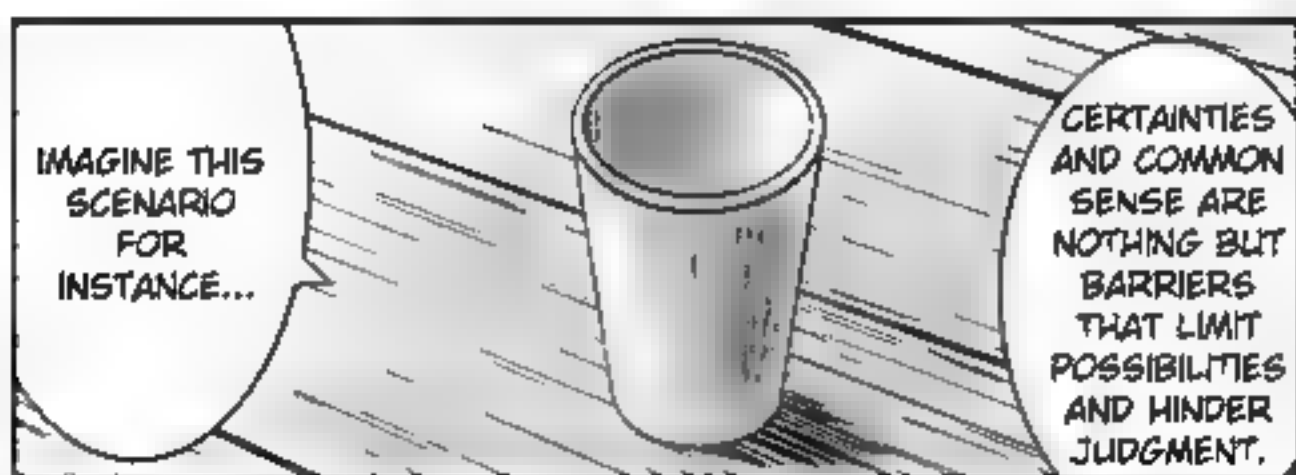
THAT MAY
BE TRUE
BUT...



I DID
WARN YOU
SINCE THE
BEGINNING
THAT THERE
WILL BE
CHEATING
THOUGH...



WAS YOUR
"COMMON SENSE"
ABLE TO PROTECT
YOUR MONEY?



WHILE THE CARTHAGINIAN ARMY ARE EXECUTING THEIR DIVERSION AND ATTRACTING THE ROMAN FORCES TO IT

BENEFITING FROM THEIR ABSENCE, AN AGENT WOULD INFILTRATE THE HEART OF ROME AND WOULD INCITE A REBELLION.



AND BECAUSE THE
AQUEDUCTS DELIVER
ENOUGH WATER
TO QUENCH EVERYONE,
AND THE SEWERS KEEP
THE DISEASES AWAY.

IT'S BECAUSE THE
STREETS OF ROME
ARE WEALTHY AND
PLENTY OF FOOD.



THAT'S TRUE.
IT'S HARD
TO BELIEVE
THAT THIS
CAN REALLY
HAPPEN.



THE CITIZENS WOULD
QUICKLY FOIL THEIR
ATTEMPTS IN ORDER
TO PROTECT THEIR
BELOVED CITY.

EVEN IF THE
ENEMY WOULD
BE ABLE TO
BUY A FEW
MISFITS TO
SUPPORT HIS
CAUSE,

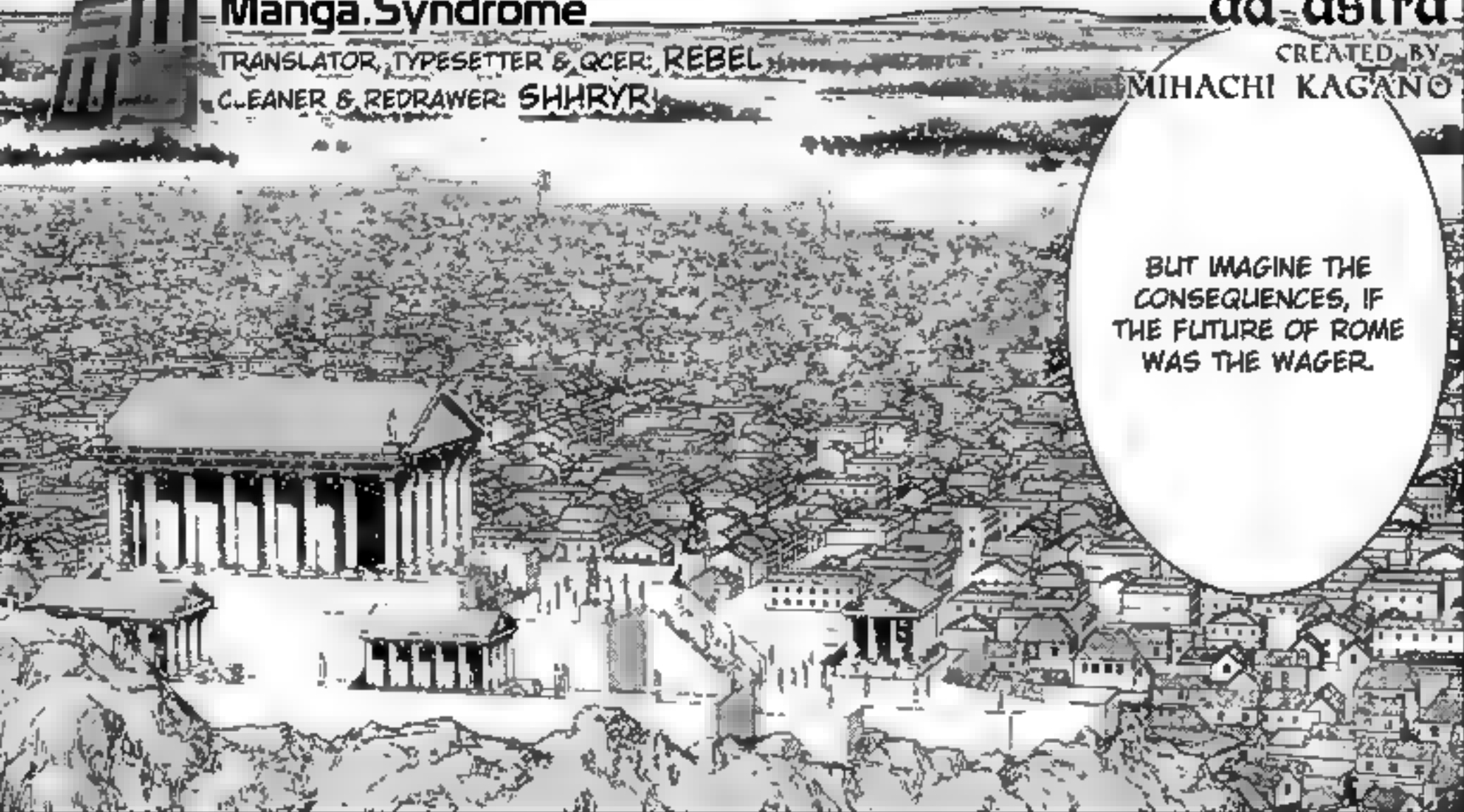
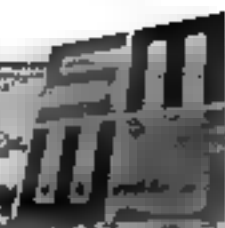
IN THIS
LUXURIOUS
CITY, WHO
WOULD
EVEN THINK
TO REVOLT?



IN YOUR CASE,
YOUR PREJUDICE
COST YOU YOUR
HALF-FILLED
PURSE....

BASED ON
COMMON SENSE,
THIS PLOT JUST
DOESN'T STAND
TO REASON.

HOWEVER,
WHEN WE
BLINDLY BE-
LIEVE IN WHAT
WE TAKE FOR
GRANTED,
WE TEND TO
FORGET TO BE
CAUTIOUS AND
THAT'LL BACK-
FIRE ON US.



BUT IMAGINE THE
CONSEQUENCES, IF
THE FUTURE OF ROME
WAS THE WAGER.

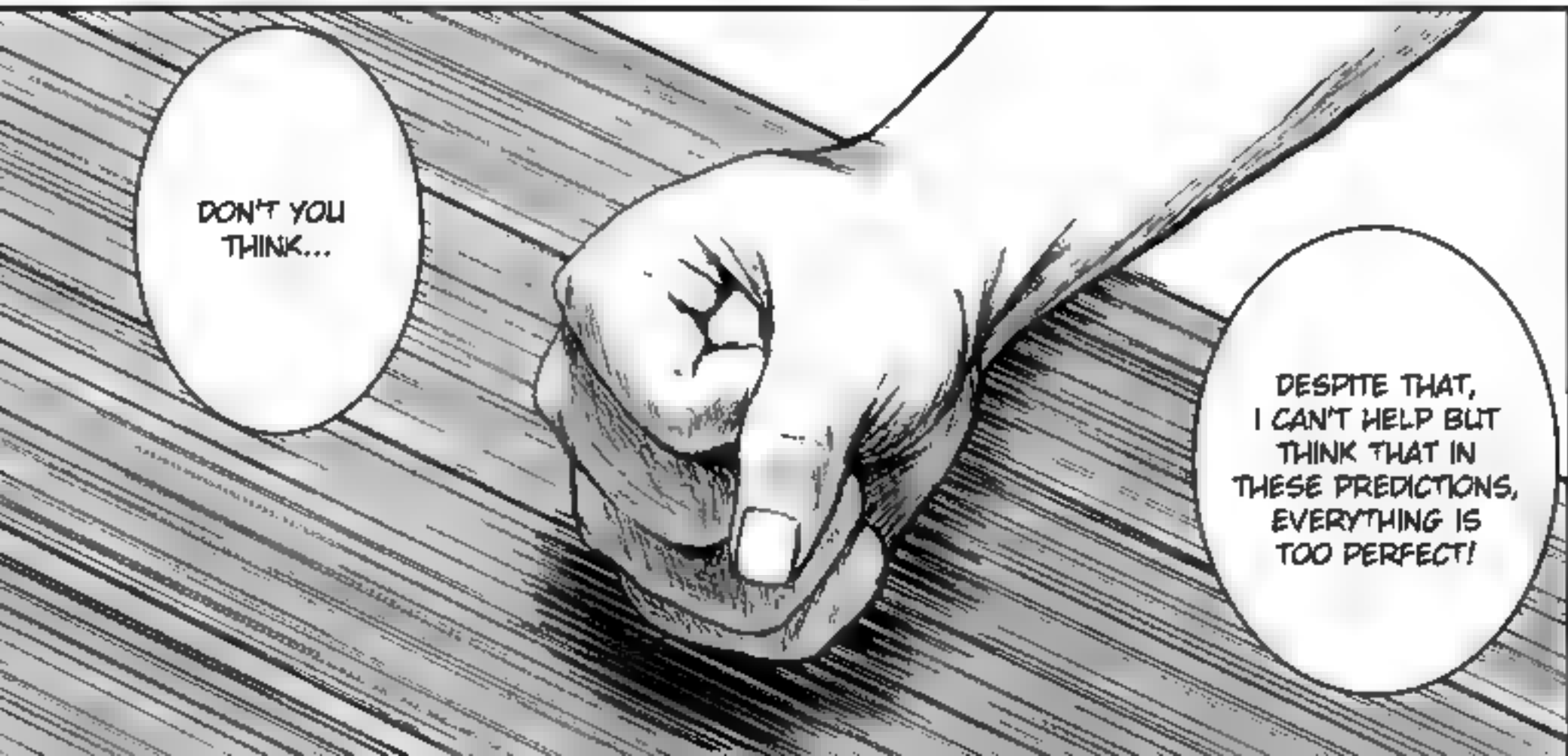


YOU SEE,
THE REASONING
OF THE SENATORS
AND MY FATHER
DOESN'T SUFFER
FROM ANY
SHORTCOMINGS.

IT'S
COMMON
SENSE.

IF WE RELY
ON WHAT WE
KNOW, OUR
VICTORY
WOULD SEEM
THE REASONA-
BLE OUTCOME.

IT'S TOO
OBVIOUS THAT
WE BARELY
UNDERSTAND
THE REASONS
WHY CARTHAGE
STARTING
THIS CON-
FLICT...



DON'T YOU
THINK...

DESPITE THAT,
I CAN'T HELP BUT
THINK THAT IN
THESE PREDICTIONS,
EVERYTHING IS
TOO PERFECT!



IS SOMEWHAT
SIMILAR TO
YOURS AT THE
BEGINNING
OF THE GAME?

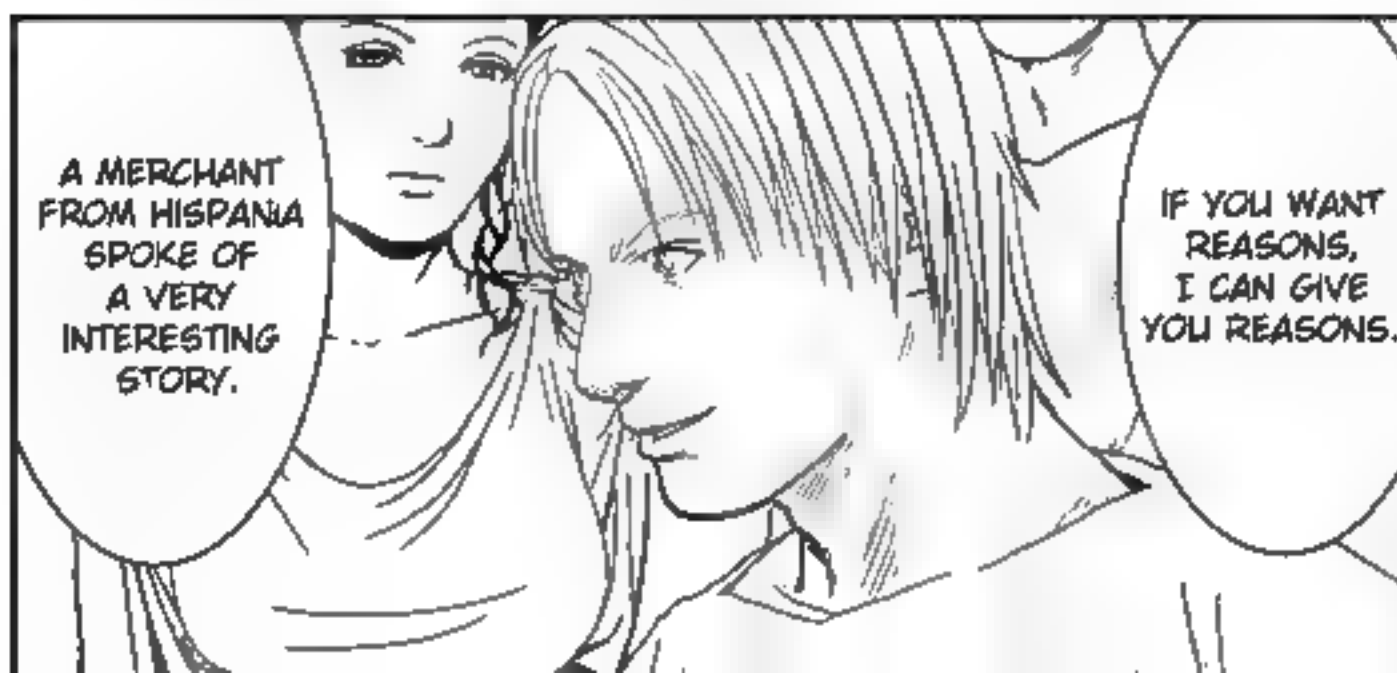
THAT THE
SITUATION
OF ROME



IF WE KEEP
WORRYING
FOR NO
REASON,
WE'LL ALL
GROW OLD
BEFORE
WE'RE
SUPPOSED
TO.

THE GAULS
ALSO THREW
THEMSELVES
INTO A LOSING
WAR.

HOW IS
HANNIBAL
ANY
DIFFERENT?



A MERCHANT
FROM HISPANIA
SPOKE OF
A VERY
INTERESTING
STORY.

IF YOU WANT
REASONS,
I CAN GIVE
YOU REASONS.

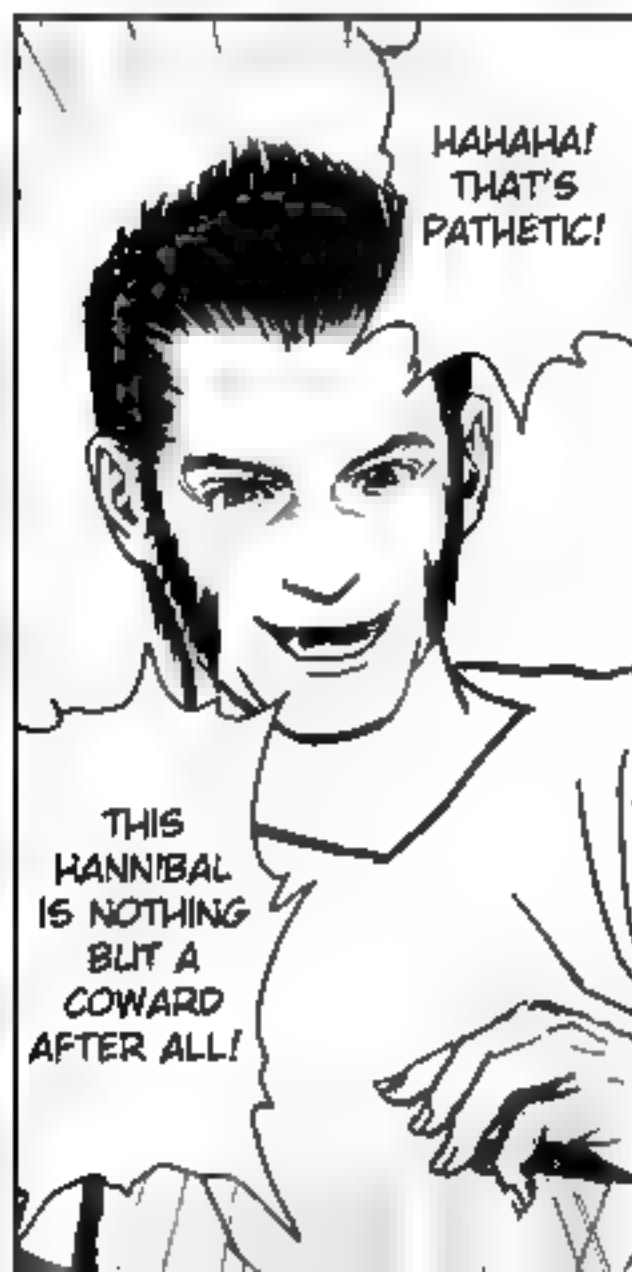
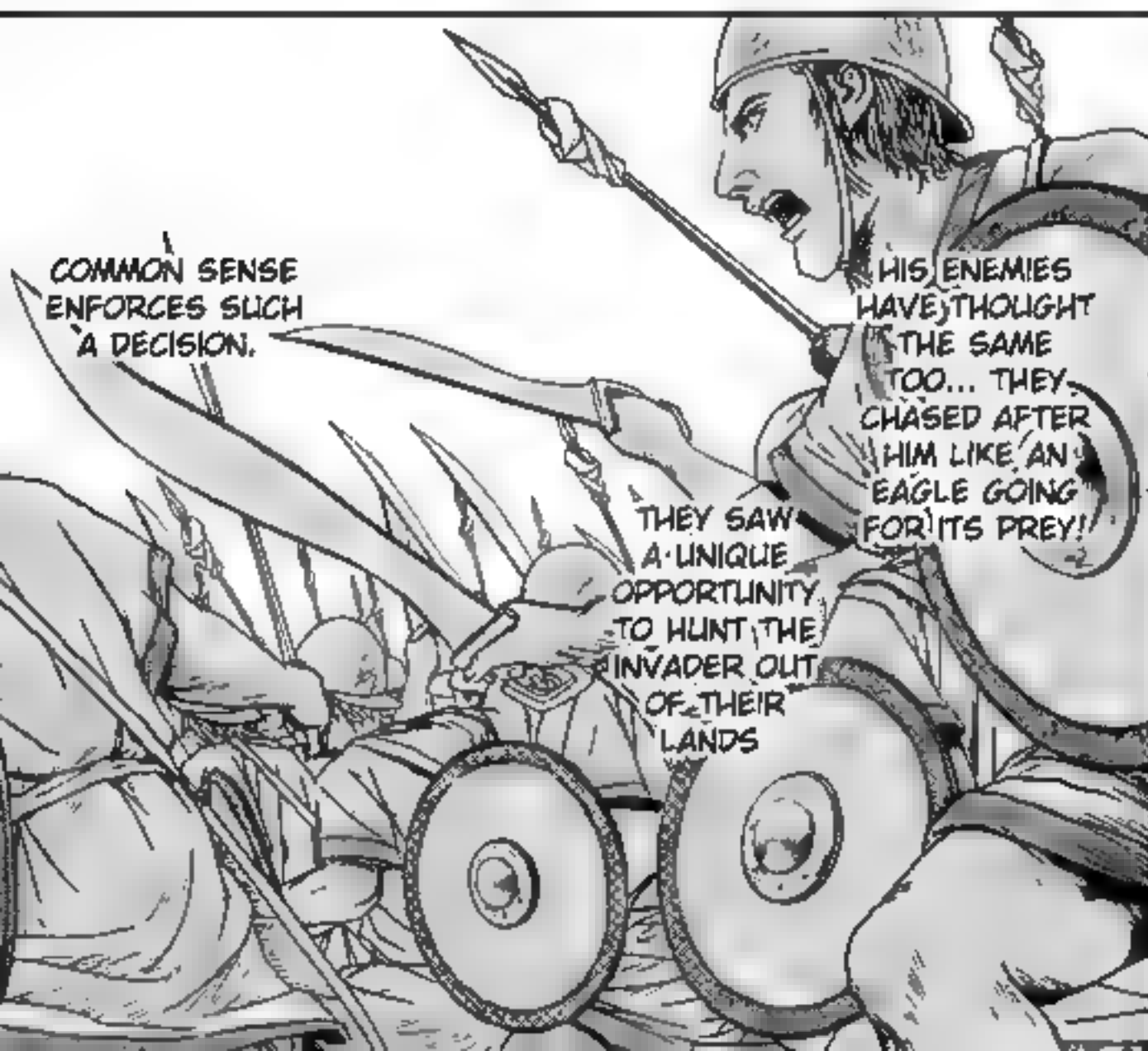
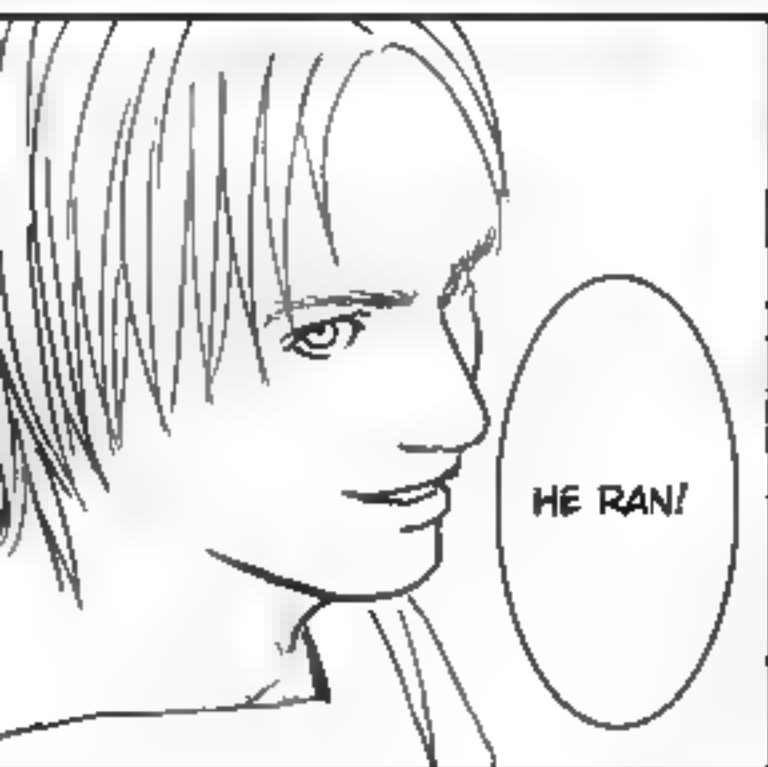


WHAT
I THINK IS
THAT YOU
SURELY
DWELL
TOO MUCH
...

HANNIBAL WAS
IN A DEADLOCK.
WHAT DO YOU
THINK HE DID?

THERE WAS NEARLY 100,000
MEN... MAYBE MORE, WHO
COULD POSSIBLY CONFRONT
THE CARTHAGINIANS.

TWO YEARS AGO, IN SPRING,
HANNIBAL'S TROOPS WERE
ADVANCING AND THEY CAME
FACE TO FACE WITH
A COALITION ARMY FORMED
BY THE IBERIAN TRIBES.





THEY HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIS COMMANDING CAPABILITIES.

WHEN THE NEWS REACHED THE CARTHAGINIAN SENATE, WHO WERE OPPOSED TO THE IDEA OF THE YOUNG BARCA TAKING COMMAND OF THE ARMY,



THE SENATORS HAVE MADE THE SAME COMMENT. .



EVEN IF THIS BATTLE REALLY HAPPENED, THIS STORY DEFINITELY EXAGGERATES THE FACTS.

ALL THIS IS NOT VERY PLAUSIBLE ...

THINK ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF FOOD REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN 100,000 MEN.



EVEN WHEN HE WAS CORNERED, HE STILL REMAINED COMPOSED ENOUGH

TO OBSERVE ALL THE PRESENT ASPECTS: THE TOPOGRAPHY OF BOTH PLACES AND THE ENEMY'S PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE, AND TO USE THEM TO COME UP WITH A STRATEGY ON THE SPOT



PERHAPS THE NUMBER THAT WAS REPORTED TO THE ELDERS WAS EXAGGERATED IN ORDER TO EASE HANNIBAL'S POSITION,

BUT NUMBERS ARE BUT SMALL DETAILS.

WHAT IS INTERESTING IS THE WAY WITH WHICH THE GENERAL HAVE HANDLED THIS DELICATE SITUATION.



THERE IS A
GOOD CHANCE
THAT BY RESPON-
DING "LOGICALLY"
TO HIS PROVOCATION,
THE ROMAN
ARMY ALREADY
TOOK THE FIRST
STEP INTO A
MUDDY RIVER
WHICH MAY PULL
THEM TO THEIR
END!

THIS
HANNIBAL
IS A
FIRST-RATE
LEADER.

IF A GENERAL
LIKE HIM MADE
A MOVE WHICH
AT FACE VALUE
SEEMS SENSELESS
AND RECKLESS,



NO ONE KNOWS
WHAT'S WAITING
FOR US NOR
WHAT THE
FUTURE HOLDS
FOR ROME...



MAY END
IN A VERY
BAD WAY...

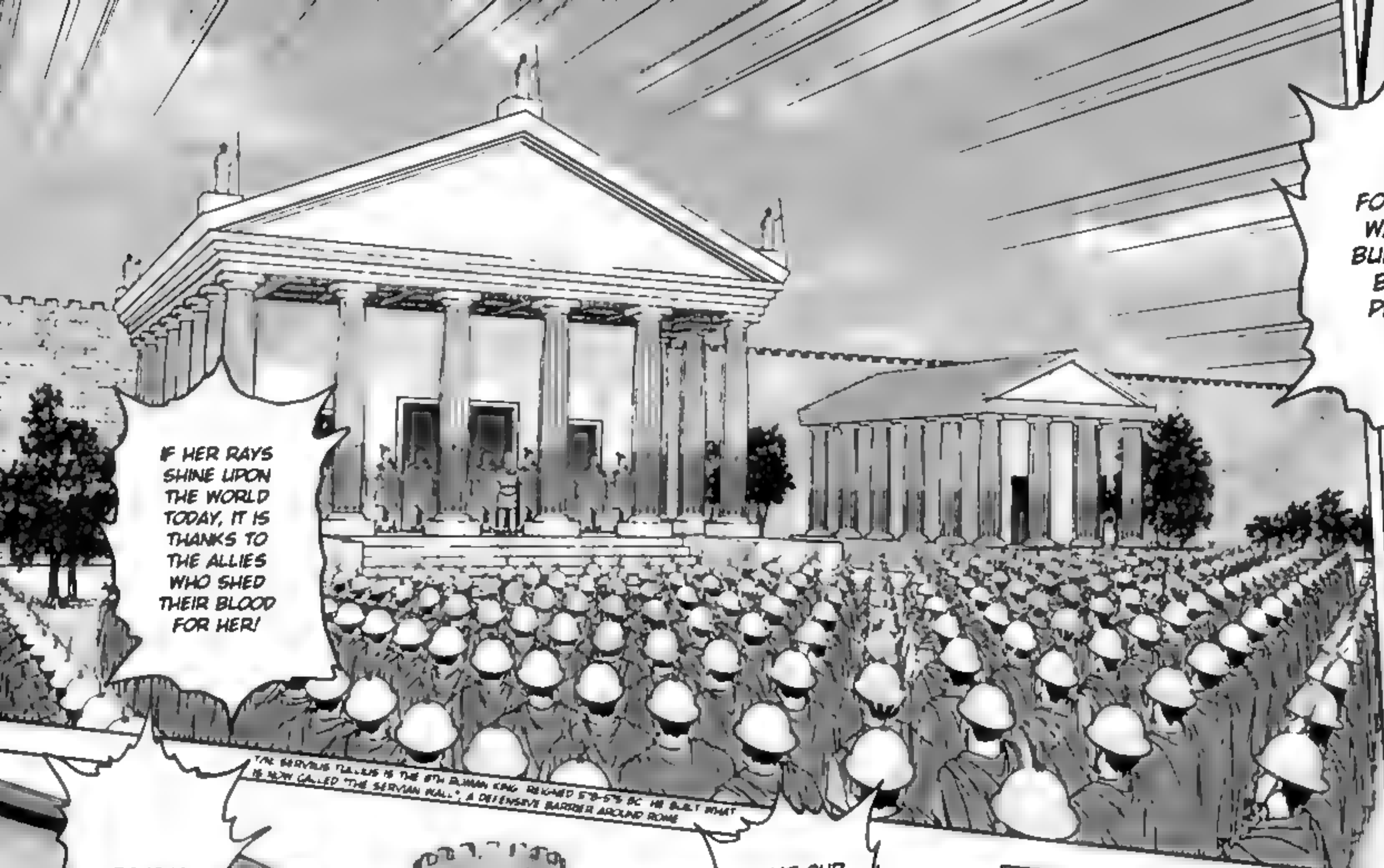
BUT BETWEEN
US, THIS WAR
...

THE FIELD OF MARS OR 'CAMPUS MARTIUS' IN LATIN, IS A 2 SQUARE KILOMETERS FIELD IN ROME.
IT'S USED MOSTLY FOR SOLDIER TRAINING AND CELEBRATION OF MILITARY SUCCESSES.

AUGUST 218 B.C.
ROME, FIELD OF MARS,
NEW RECRUITS GATHERING.

THE ROMAN
ARMY
IS STRONG!

BUT WE MUST
NOT BE
PULLED INTO
ARROGANCE!

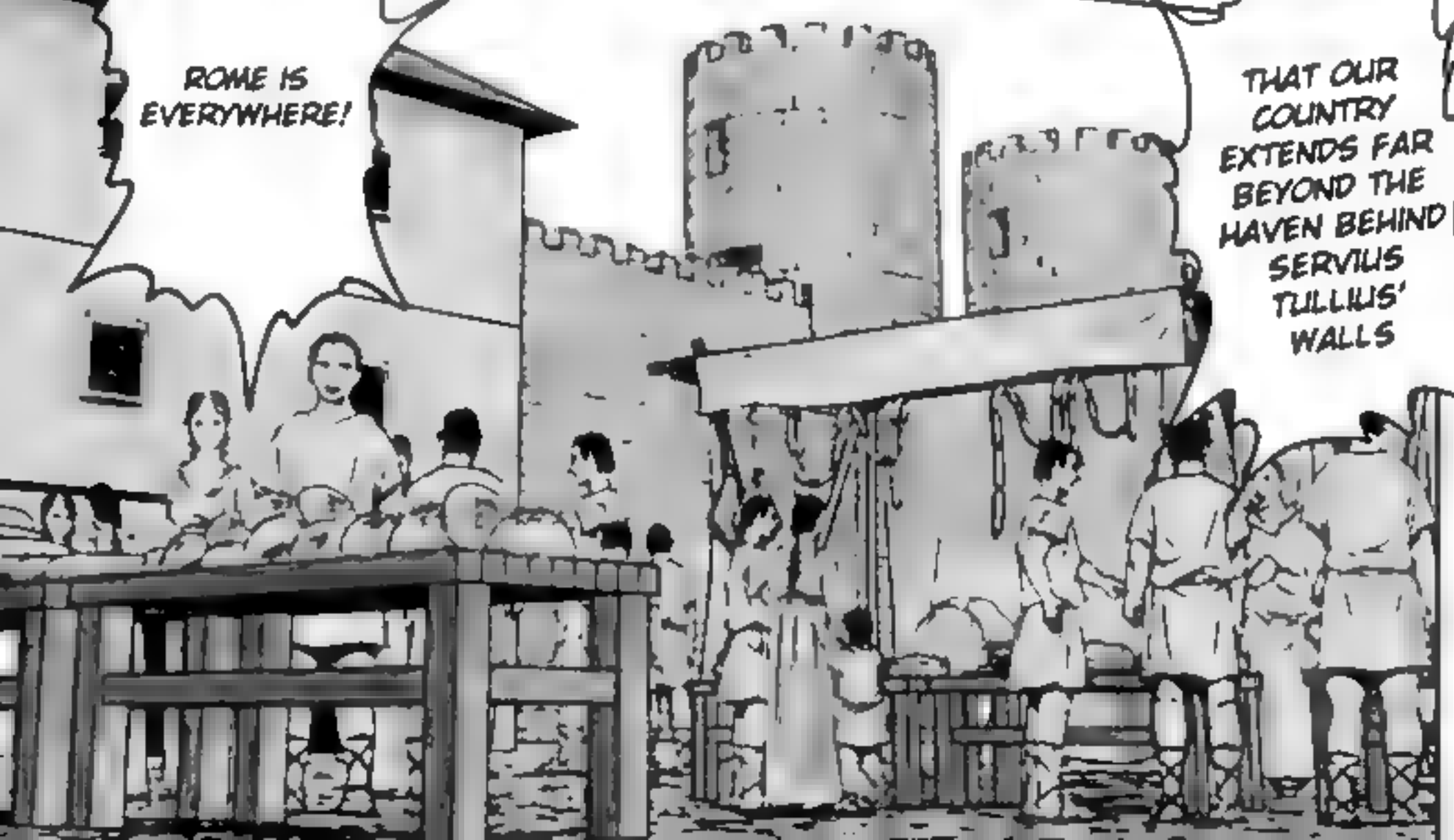


IF HER RAYS
SHINE UPON
THE WORLD
TODAY, IT IS
THANKS TO
THE ALLIES
WHO SHED
THEIR BLOOD
FOR HER!

THE SERVILIUS TULLIUS IS THE 6TH ROMAN KING. REIGNED 578-539 BC. HE BUILT WHAT IS NOW CALLED "THE SERVIAN WALL," A DEFENSIVE BARRIER AROUND ROME.

ROME IS
EVERYWHERE!

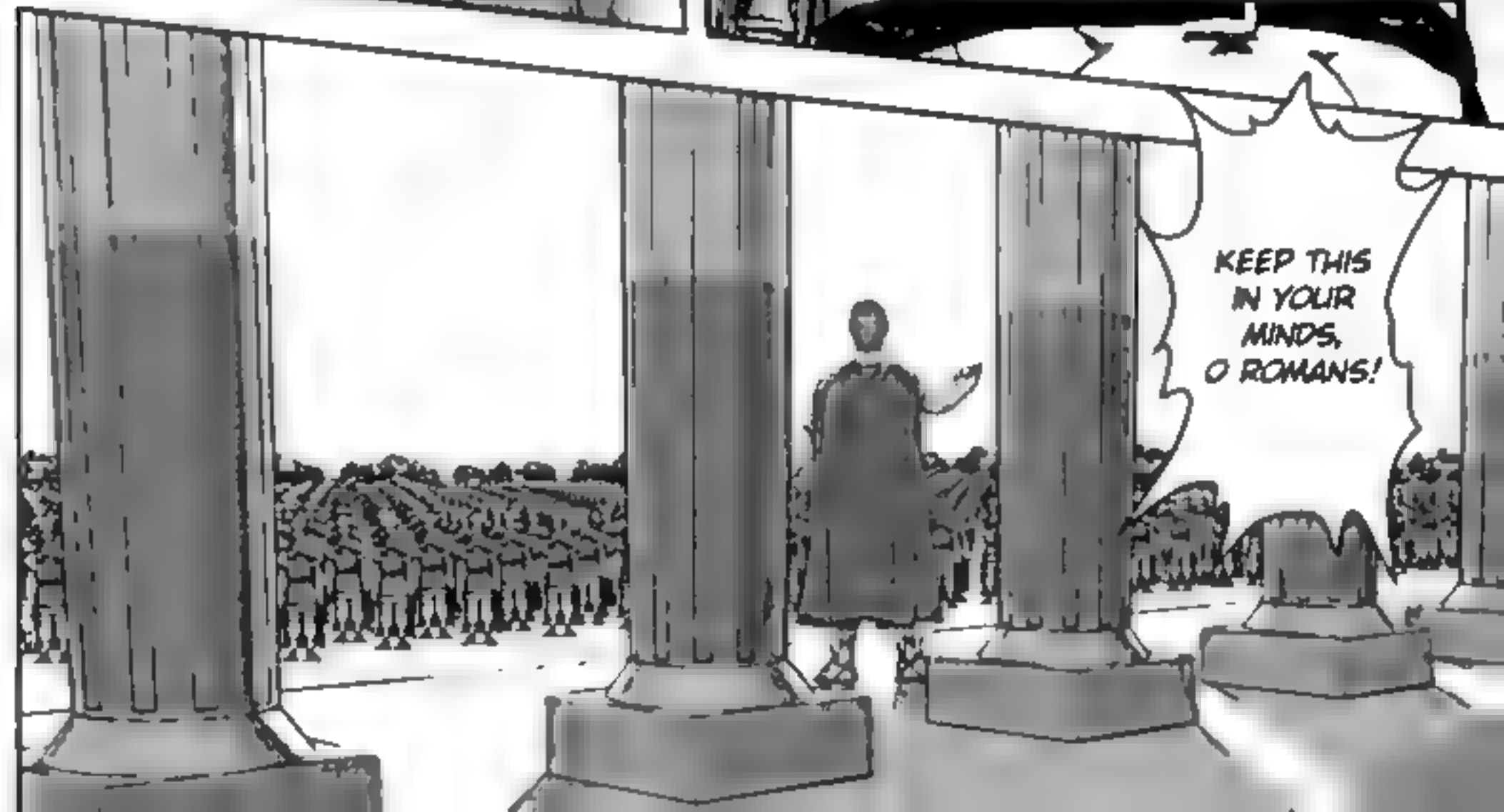
THAT OUR
COUNTRY
EXTENDS FAR
BEYOND THE
HAVEN BEHIND
SERVILIUS
TULLIUS'
WALLS




FOR ROME
WAS NOT
BUILT ONLY
BY HER
PEOPLE!



PUBLIUS CORNELIUS SCIPIO,
CONSUL, FATHER OF YOUNG SCIPIO

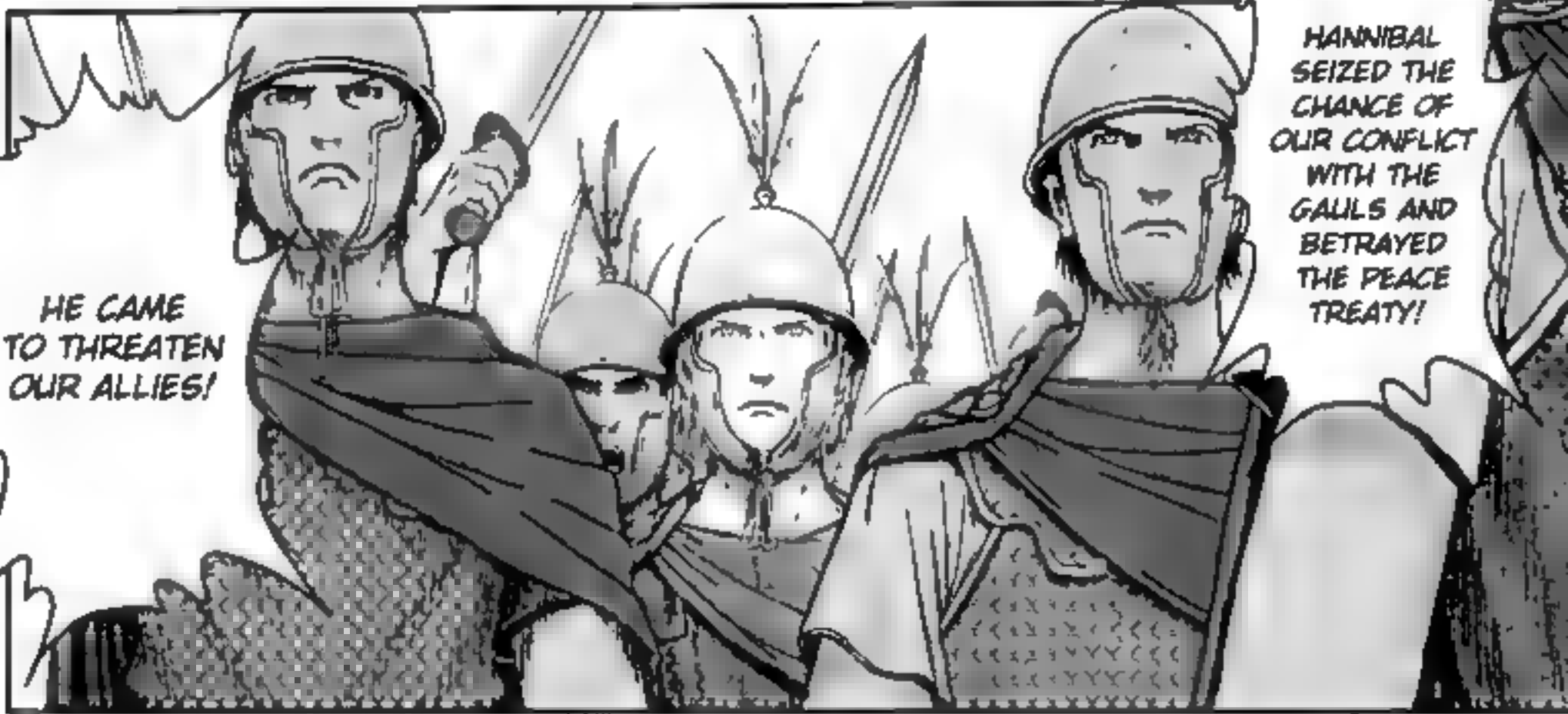
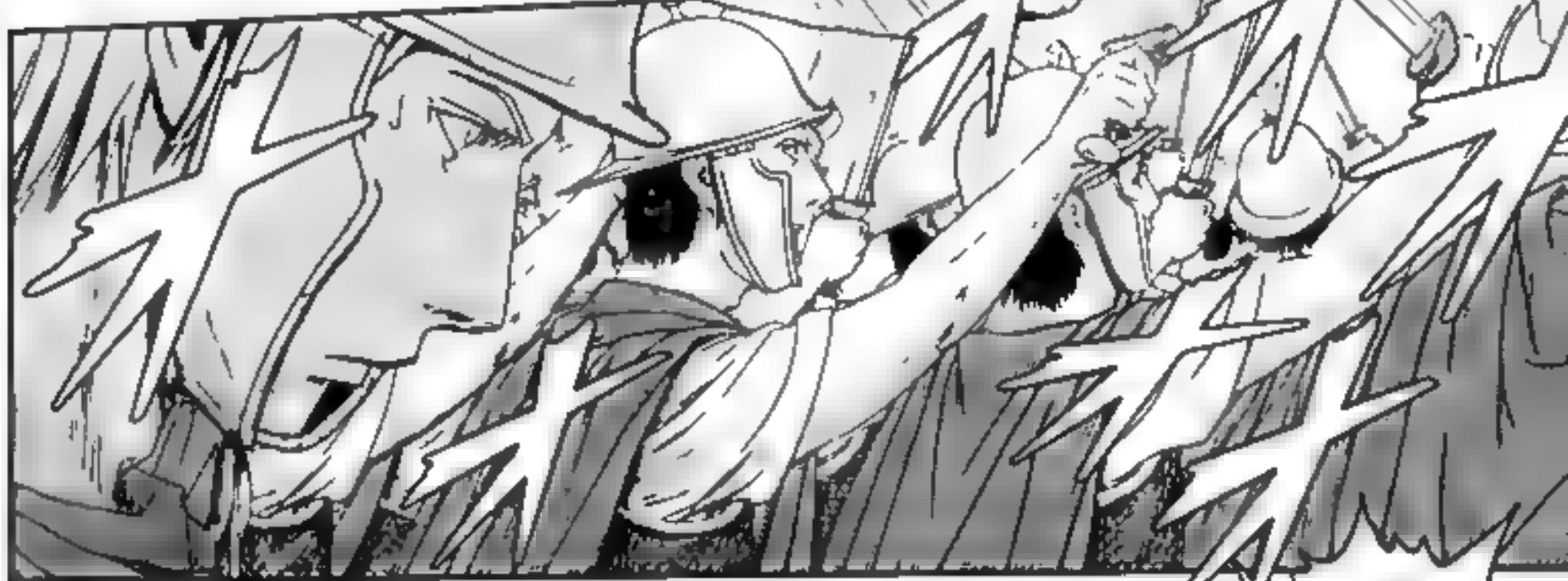


KEEP THIS
IN YOUR
MINDS,
O ROMANS!




ROME IS ONE!
ROME IS
INDIVISIBLE!

NOTHING CAN
BREAK THE
SOLID BONDS
THAT UNITE
US!




HE CAME
TO THREATEN
OUR ALLIES!

HANNIBAL
SEIZED THE
CHANCE OF
OUR CONFLICT
WITH THE
GAULS AND
BETRAYED
THE PEACE
TREATY!



CLEMENCY IS
NO MORE!
CARTHAGE
MUST PAY!

AFTER HISPANIA,
NOW, HE'S AIMING
HIS CONQUEST
VELLEITY TOWARDS
MASSILIA!



LET'S PROVE
TO THOSE
BARBARIANS
THAT ROME
WILL NOT
LET THEM GO
UNPUNISHED!

FELLOW
SOLDIERS!
TAKE YOUR
WEAPONS!

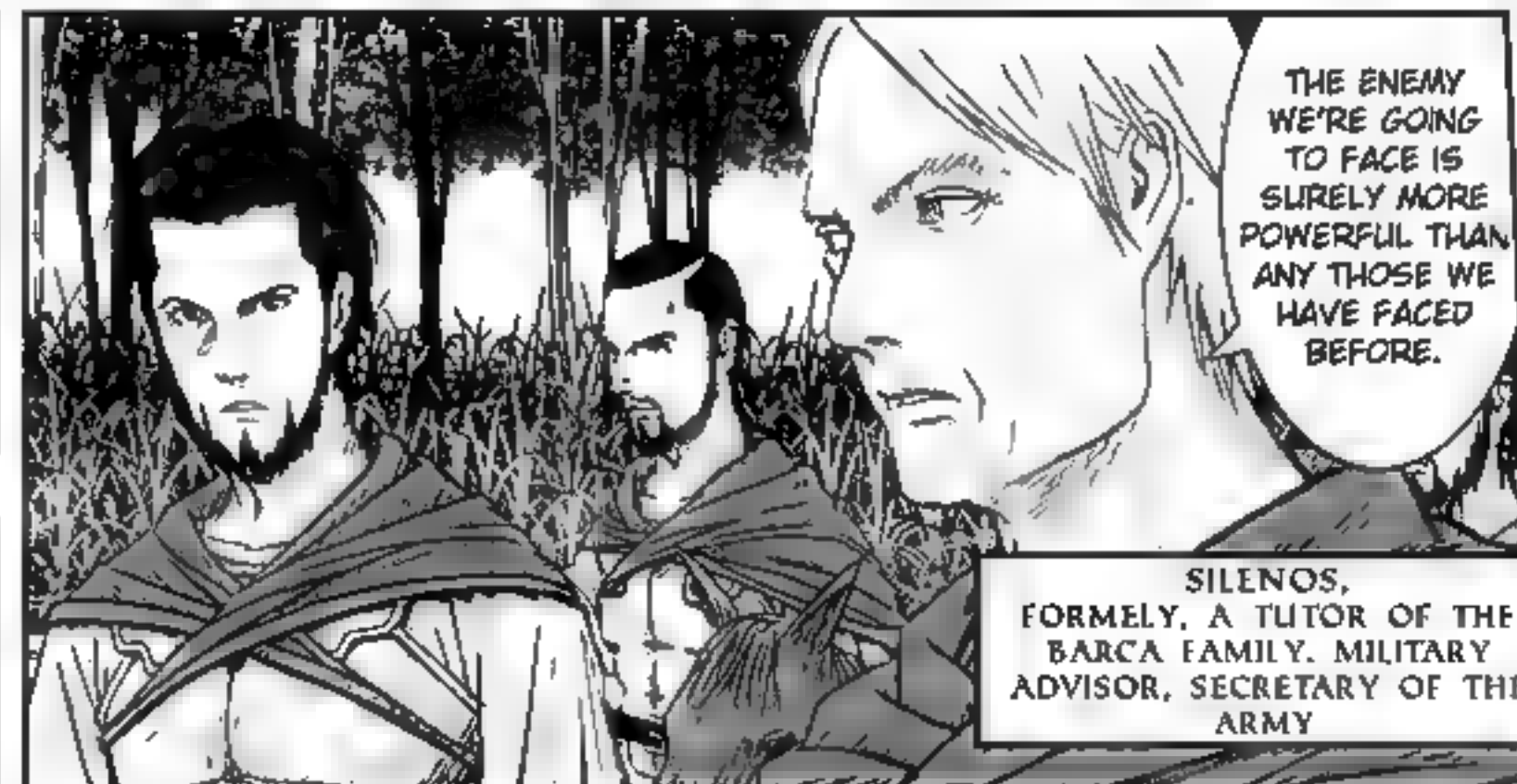


IT SEEMS
FOOLISH
TO ME.

MAGO BARCA,
HANNIBAL'S YOUNGER
BROTHER



SILENOS...
DO YOU THINK
THIS PLAN HAS
A CHANCE IN
SUCCEEDING?



THE ENEMY
WE'RE GOING
TO FACE IS
SURELY MORE
POWERFUL THAN
ANY THOSE WE
HAVE FACED
BEFORE.

SILENOS,
FORMERLY, A TUTOR OF THE
BARCA FAMILY. MILITARY
ADVISOR, SECRETARY OF THE
ARMY



CLOSE TO
50 000
MEN HAVE
ACCEPTED
TO FOLLOW
HANNIBAL!

ALL OF
THEM ARE
AWARE OF
THE DANGERS
AND YET...



UNDOUBTLY,
HALF...
MAYBE EVEN
MORE...

MANY OF
OUR WARRIORS
WILL PERISH
WHILE
CONFRONTING
IT...





NO, IT'S
JUST
THAT...

YET YOU,
HIS BEST
OFFICER,
YOU DOUBT
THE VALIDITY
OF HIS
STRATEGY?

SO 000
HAVE PUT
THIER LIVES
INTO HIS
HANDS.



WORRY
NOT ABOUT
THE CHAL-
LENGES,




NAAGO!



YES?



FOR BEYOND
THE DIFFICULTIES
LIES THE SKY!



THEN WE WILL
REACH
NEW HEIGHTS!

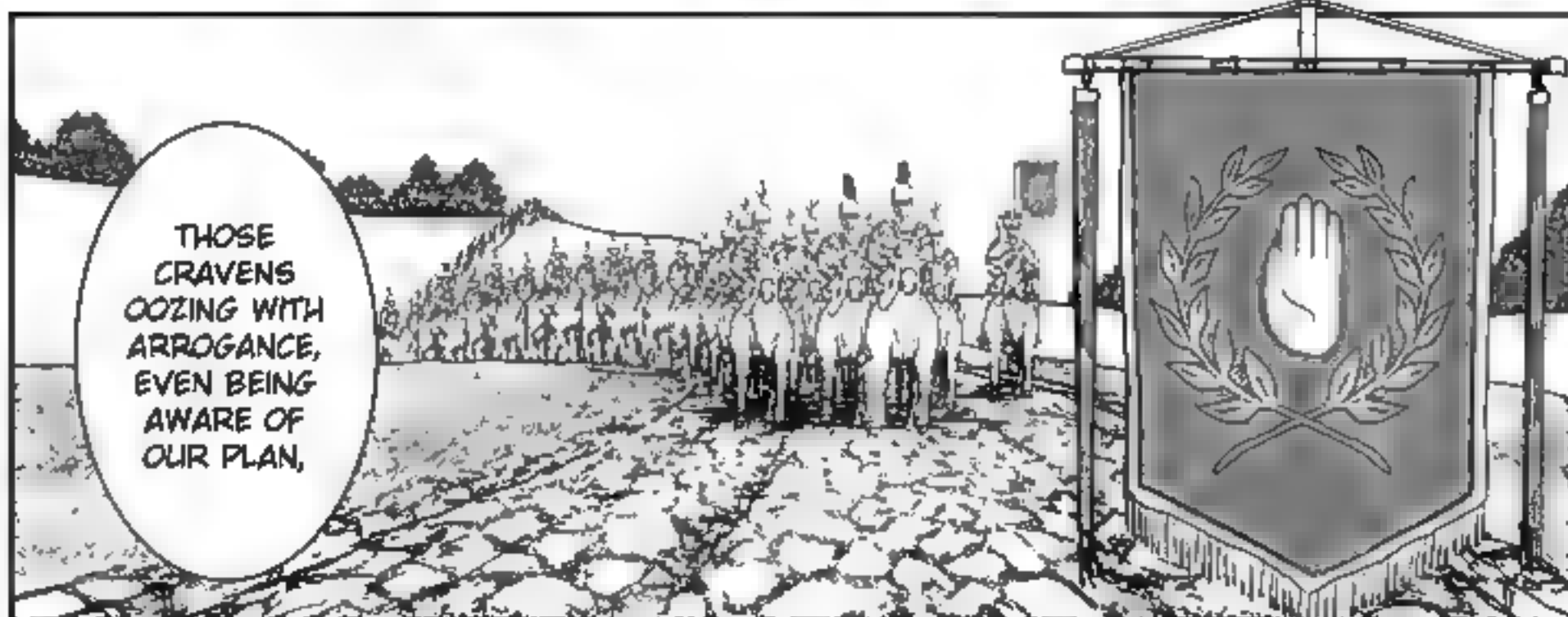
OUR ARMY
WILL OVER-
COME THE
CHALLENGES!





LAUGH
WHILE
THINKING
HOW MUCH


AND IF
THE FEAR OF
DEATH IS
TORMENTING
YOU,



THOSE
CRAVENS
OOZING WITH
ARROGANCE,
EVEN BEING
AWARE OF
OUR PLAN,



ARE
TREMBLING
WITH FEAR
WHILE
WALKING ON
OUR STEPS.



WHEN THE IBERIANS, BEING CARRIED AWAY BY THEIR MOMENTUM, CHARGED INTO THE RIVER, HANNIBAL SENT HIS CAVALRY AND WAR ELEPHANTS.

WAS, IN FACT, WELL-POSITIONED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TAGUS RIVER WHERE IT WAITED FOR THE ENEMY'S FORCES

MEANWHILE, HANNIBAL'S ARMY, WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS IN ROUTE

THE SOLDIERS WHO REMAINED AT THE RIVERBANK, HORRIFIED AT THE SPECTACLE BEFORE THEM, FLED WITHOUT ASKING THE OTHERS

BEING ABLE TO MOVE FASTER AND FREELY IN THE RIVER, THEY MASSACRED THE ENEMY'S INFANTRYMEN WHO WERE HINDERED BY THE MUD AND THE CURRENT

THE WAVES RAPIDLY TURNED RED WITH BLOOD. A NUMBER OF IBERIANS PANICKED AND ENDED UP DROWNING TO THEIR DEATHS

IN THE END, HANNIBAL'S VICTORY WAS PERFECT!

ad astra

SCIPIO TO HANNIBAL

CREATED BY MIHACHI KAGANO

HISTORICAL NOTES

GIVEN THE ACCURACY OF HISTORICAL EVENTS IN THIS MANGA, I FELT THE POTENTIAL OF DEDICATING A PAGE OR TWO FOR EACH CHAPTER IN ORDER TO MENTION MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE EVENTS THAT OCCUR IN IT AND THIS IS ONLY FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE MANGA AND ALSO TO APPRECIATE AND ENJOY IT MORE. HOWEVER, THE MANGA'S NARRATIVE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THE READER TO UNDERSTAND THE SETTING AND THE STORY WITHOUT RESORTING TO OUTSIDE SOURCES.

I WILL QUOTE INFORMATION FROM THE NET (WIKIPEDIA, ETC...) AND FROM HISTORY BOOKS ABOUT THE MATTER. I MAY CHOOSE LONG QUOTES BUT ITS UP TO YOU TO READ IT OR NOT. WELL, THINK OF IT AS A SUPER EXTENDED TRANSLATOR'S NOTE OR FURTHER READINGS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO READ!

NOT ALL THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS PAGE CAN BE CONSIDERED COMPLETELY TRUE.

EPISODE 2: QUESTION COMMON SENSE!

SIEGE OF SAGUNTUM

17 But Hannibal had started from New Carthage and was leading his army straight against Saguntum. This city is situated on the sea-ward foot of the mountain chain on which the frontiers of Iberia and Celtiberia converge, and is about seven stades from the sea. The district cultivated by its inhabitants is exceedingly productive, and has a soil superior to any in all Iberia. Under the walls of this town Hannibal pitched his camp and set energetically to work on the siege, foreseeing many advantages that would accrue if he could take it. Of these the first was that he would thereby disappoint the Romans in their expectation of making Iberia the seat of war; a second was that he would thereby strike a general terror, which would render the already obedient tribes more submissive, and the still independent ones more cautious of offending him; but the greatest advantage of all was that thereby he would be able to push on his advance, without leaving an enemy on his rear. Besides these advantages, he calculated that the possession of this city would secure him abundant supplies for his expedition, and create an enthusiasm in the troops excited by individual acquisitions of booty, while he would conciliate the goodwill of those who remained at Carthage by the spoils which would be sent home. With these ideas he pressed on the siege with energy, sometimes setting an example to his soldiers by personally sharing in the fatigues of throwing up the siege works, and sometimes cheering on his men and recklessly exposing himself to danger. After a siege extending to the eighth month, in the course of which he endured every kind of suffering and anxiety, he finally succeeded in taking the town. An immense booty in money, slaves, and property fell into his hands, which he disposed of in accordance with his original design. The money he reserved for the needs of his projected expedition, the slaves were distributed according to merit among his men, while the property was at once sent entire to Carthage. The result answered his expectations: the army was rendered more eager for action, the home populace more ready to grant whatever he asked, and he himself was enabled, by the possession of such abundant means, to carry out many measures that were of service to his expedition.

Polybius, The Histories, Book Three, 17

THE CAUSE OF THE SECOND PUNIC WAR

Here, there won't be any satisfyingly comprehensive historical notes. The issue whether Hannibal's attack on Saguntum is the spark that ignited the Second Punic war or is it the Romans' responsibility is a controversial one among historians. That said, I can mention that some argue that Saguntum was not an ally of Rome but only under its protection. The Romans would counter this by saying there was no clause that excludes future allies in the treaty of Lutatius and they (the Roman delegation that was sent to the senate) did say it. There is also another aspect in relation to this matter which is a peace treaty concluded by Hasdrubal the fair, brother-in-law to Hamilcar, in it, both parties agreed that the Ebro River is the boundary between the two powers and none of them may cross it in arms. Explaining this in details will take several pages I think. The point is, it is not yet certain who or what is responsible for the Second Punic war.

I think the mangaka adopted the most plausible and common interpretation among historians and worked on it. This is a quote from *Polybius's The Histories; Book Three, (30)* which I think sums up this particular point of view:

"I conclude, then, that if the destruction of Saguntum is to be regarded as the cause of this war, the Carthaginians must be acknowledged to be in the wrong, both in view of the treaty of Lutatius, which secured immunity from attack for the allies of both parties, and in view of the treaty of Hasdrubal, which disabled the Carthaginians from passing the Iber with arms. If on the other hand the taking of Sardinia from them, and imposing the heavy money fine which accompanied it, are to be regarded as the causes, we must certainly acknowledge that the Carthaginians had good reason for undertaking the Hannibalian war: for as they had only yielded to the pressure of circumstances, so they seized a favorable turn in those circumstances to revenge themselves on their injuries."

THE SCENE AT THE CARTHAGINIAN SENATE

REFERENCE TO EPISODE 2, P68.

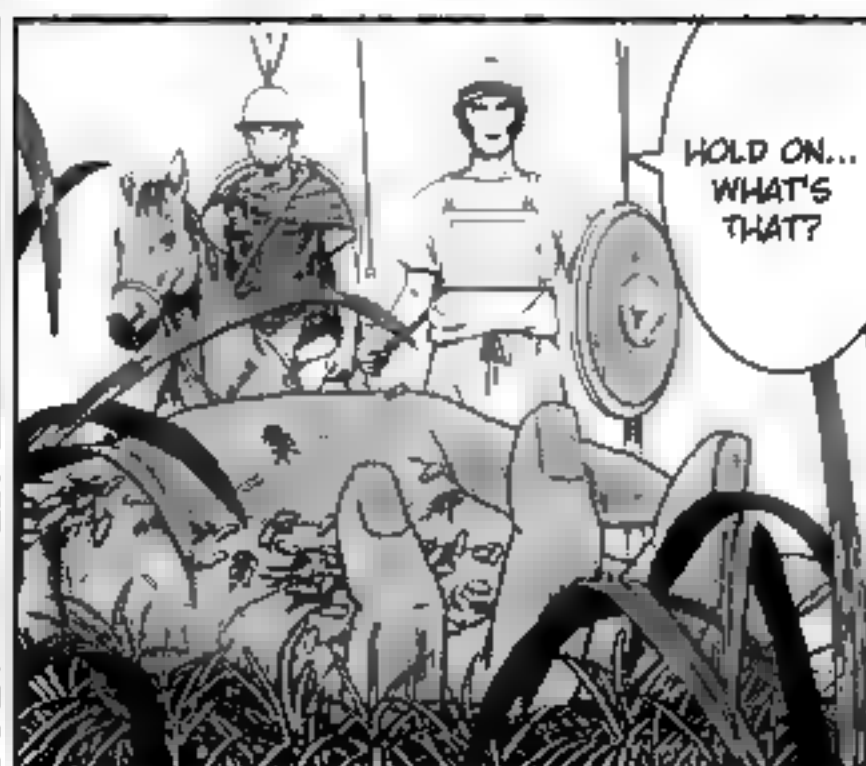
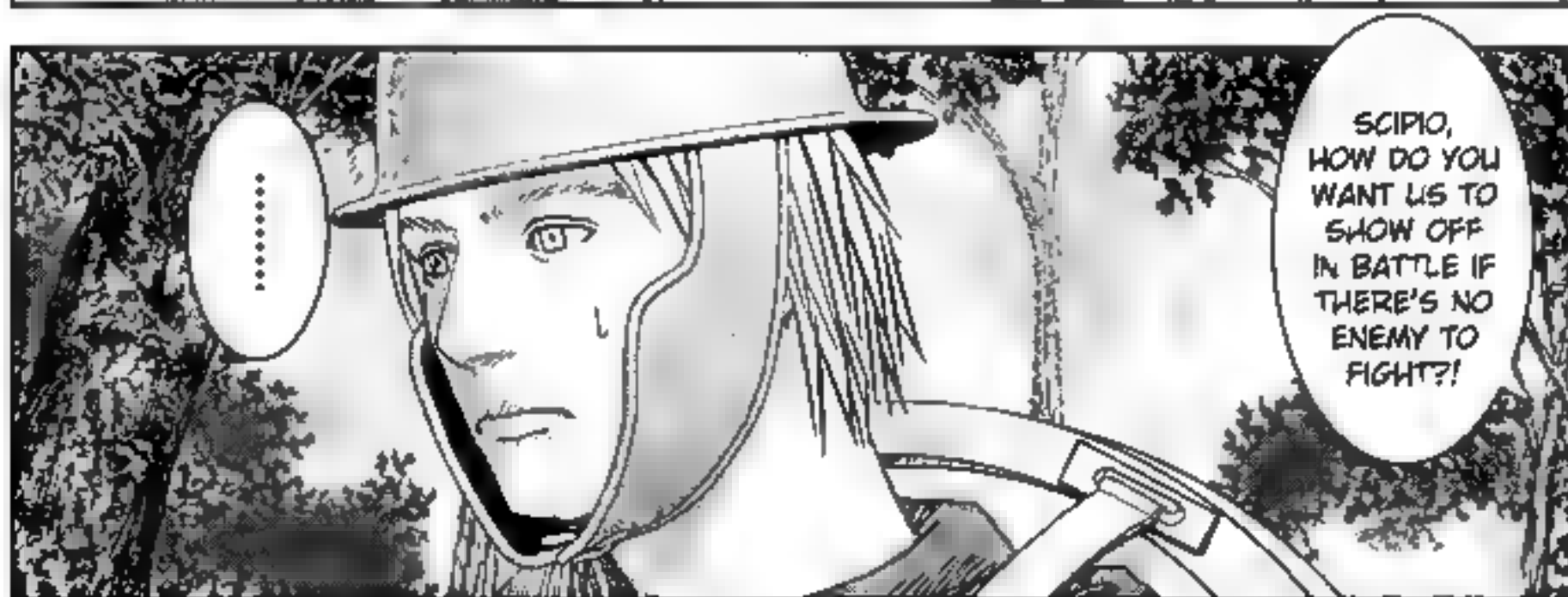
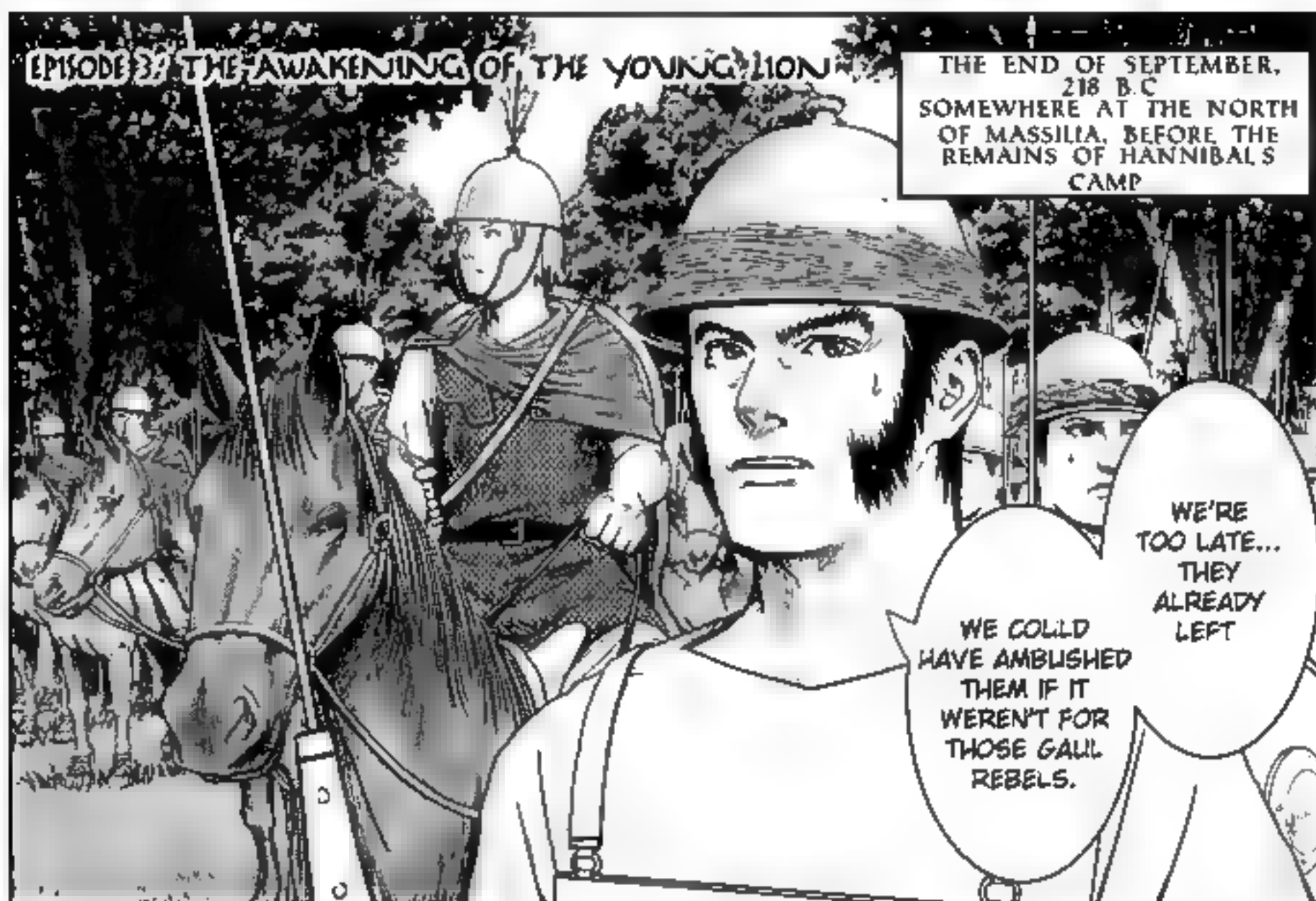
"According to Polybius (3.20.8), whenever they eventually left, the Roman envoys were instructed to present Carthage with a simple alternative - either Hannibal and his staff were to be surrendered - which would amount to repudiation of his action - or war would be declared. [...] The scene in the Carthaginian senate is a famous one: after the Roman envoys had formally asked the Carthaginians whether they were prepared to repudiate Hannibal's action, a spokesman for Carthage attempted to justify what had happened, but this the Romans studiously ignored. Instead, their leader, gesturing to the fold of his toga, said that it held peace or war - he would let fall whichever they chose. At this the presiding sufet bade him let fall whichever they liked, and Buteo said he let fall "war" to shouts of "we accept it" from many of the assembled Carthaginians (Polybius 3.20.6-21.8, and 3.33.1-4)"

*Hannibal's War: A Military History of the Second Punic War,
John Francis Lazenby, University of Oklahoma Press, p 27.*

RELEASE NOTES

This project is translated from the French version of the manga. They do a lot of changes to the lines, but it's good. However, those changes complicate things for me sometimes so I ask Shoreijuu to help me out with the lines I have trouble with directly from Japanese raw. Thank you Shoreijuu-chan! This chapter isn't proofed though. I'm sorry if it sounds weird.

VISIT OUR BLOG AND CHEER US ON
SO WE CAN KEEP GOING. THANK YOU
[HTTP://MANGASYNDROME.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://MANGASYNDROME.BLOGSPOT.COM)





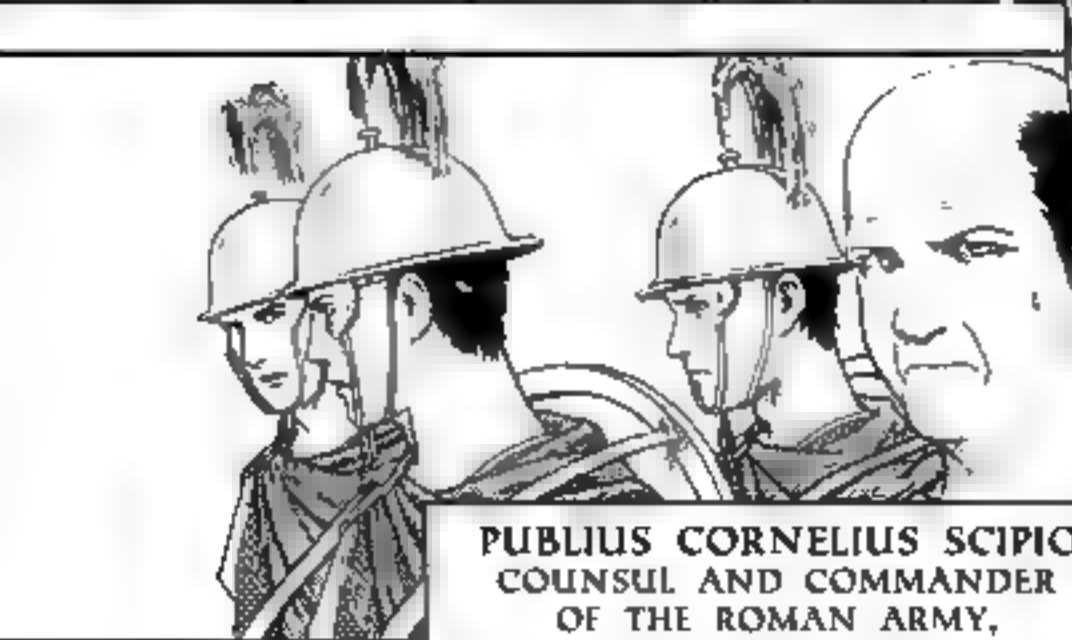
IT'S A GALL'S
CORPSE

THE

THE ALARMING OF THE YOUNG



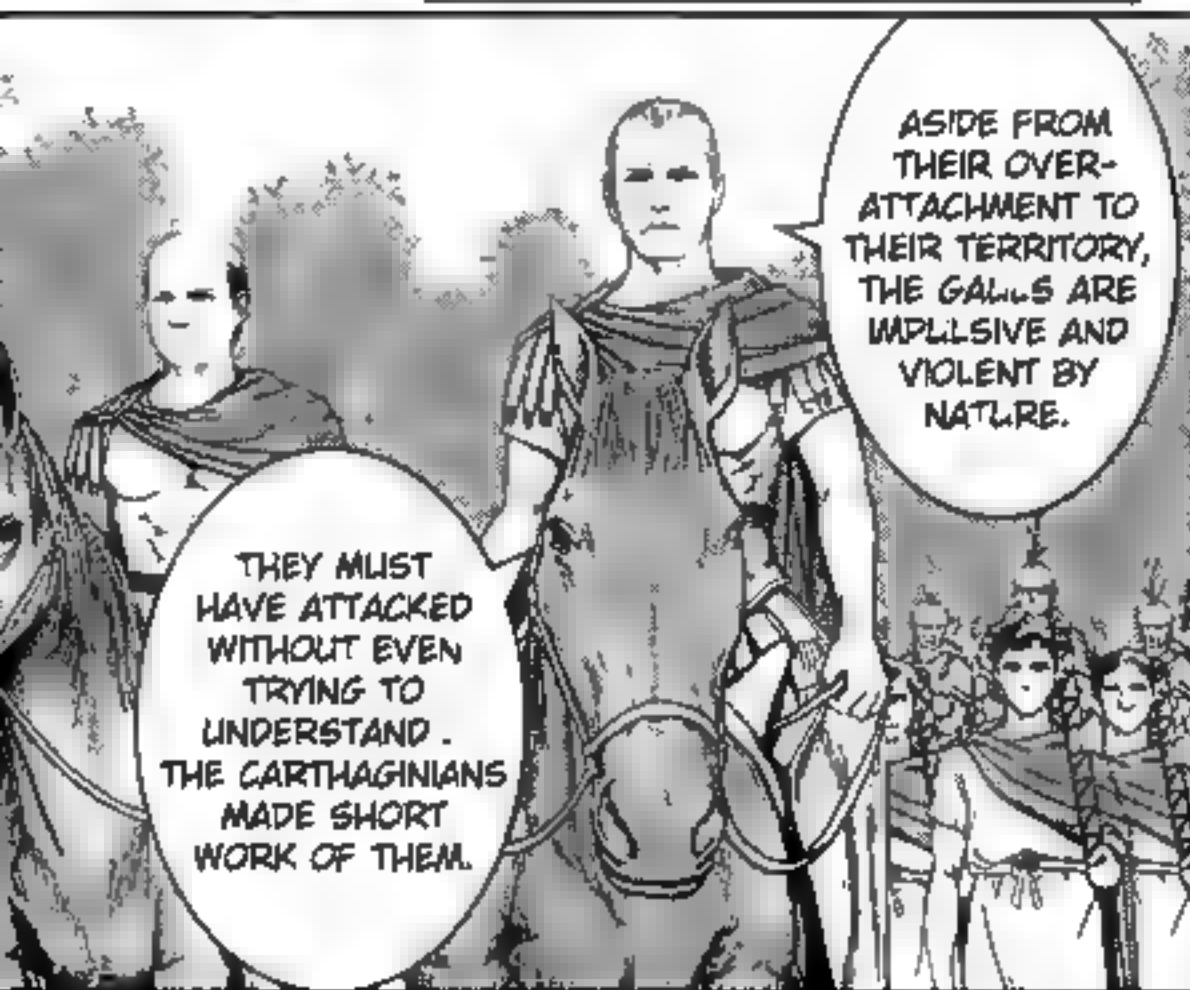
APPARENTLY,
HANNIBAL
ALSO DEALT
WITH THEM.



PUBLIUS CORNELIUS SCIPIO,
COUNSUL AND COMMANDER
OF THE ROMAN ARMY,
FATHER OF YOUNG SCIPIO

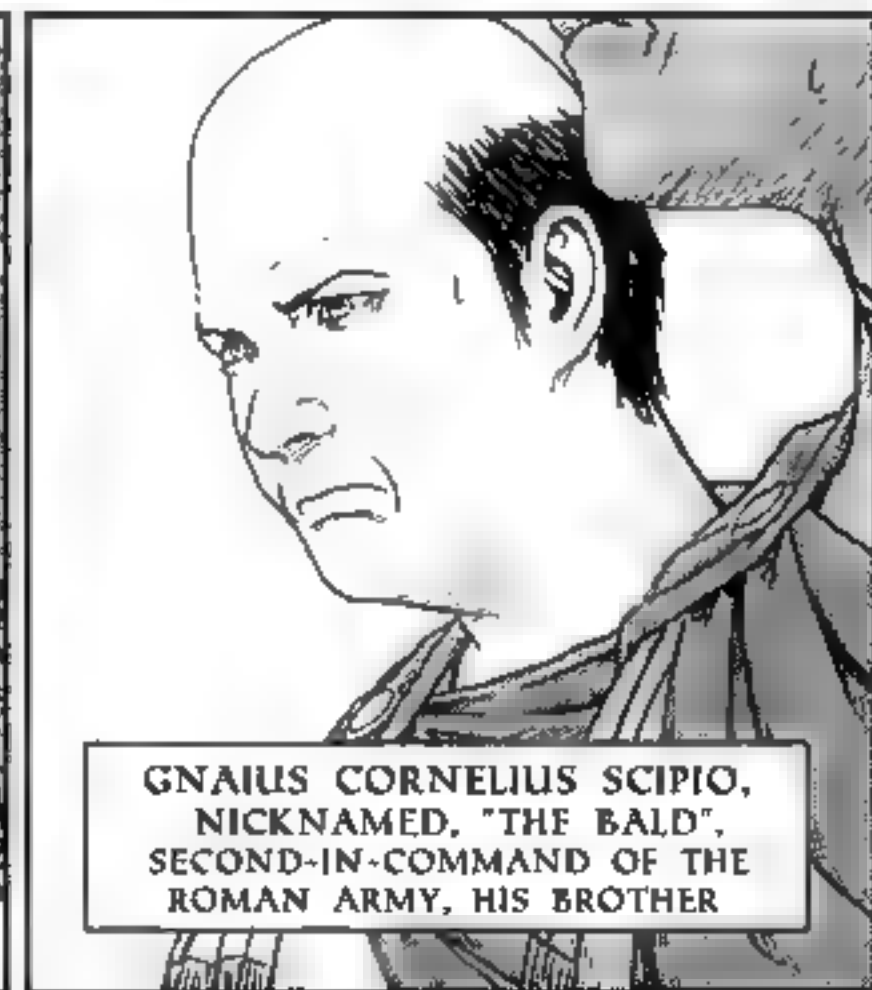


HE MOST LIKELY
HAD TO BEAR
THEIR ATTACKS
WHILE HE WAS
CROSSING THE
RHONE.



THEY MUST
HAVE ATTACKED
WITHOUT EVEN
TRYING TO
UNDERSTAND.
THE CARTHAGINIANS
MADE SHORT
WORK OF THEM.

ASIDE FROM
THEIR OVER-
ATTACHMENT TO
THEIR TERRITORY,
THE GALIJS ARE
IMPULSIVE AND
VIOLENT BY
NATURE.



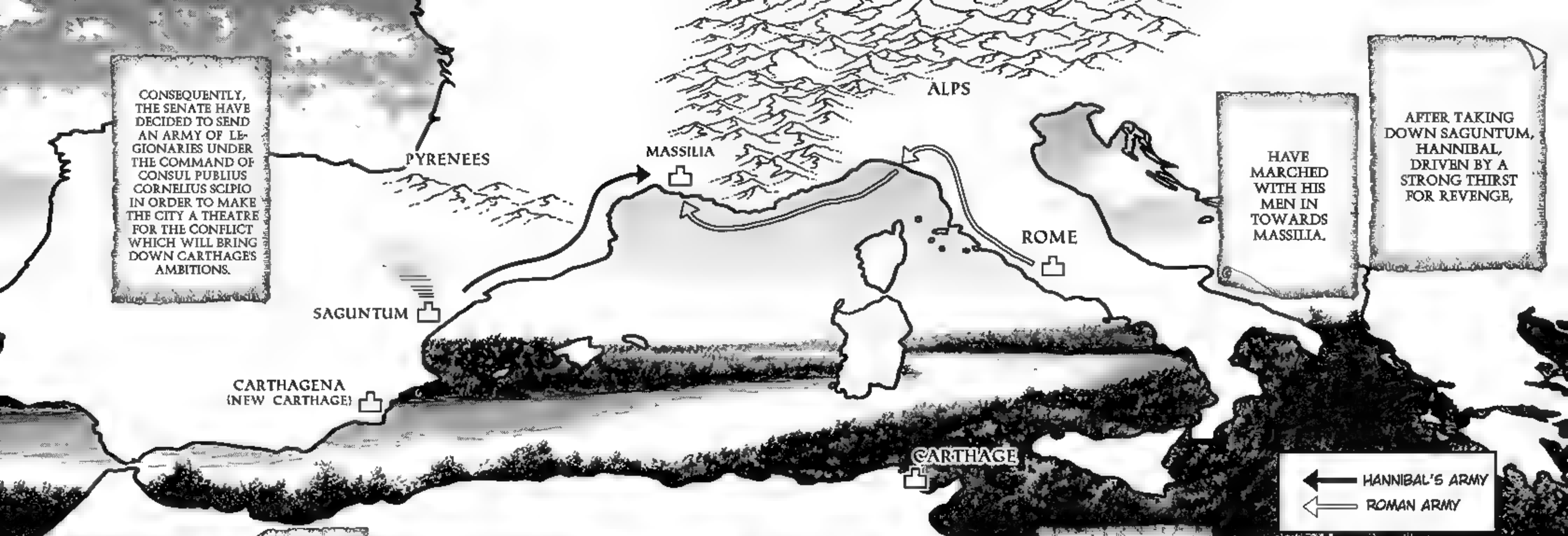
GNAIUS CORNELIUS SCIPIO,
NICKNAMED, "THE BALD",
SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF THE
ROMAN ARMY, HIS BROTHER



A SKIRMISH
AFTER
ANOTHER...
HE'S DRAINING
HIS FORCES
BEFORE THE
BATTLE...
I CAN'T
FATHOM IT.



WHY DID
HANNIBAL CHOOSE
TO PASS THROUGH
THESE FORESTS
INHABITED WITH
SUCH SAVAGES?



CONSEQUENTLY, THE SENATE HAVE DECIDED TO SEND AN ARMY OF LEGIONARIES UNDER THE COMMAND OF CONSUL PUBLIUS CORNELIUS SCIPIO IN ORDER TO MAKE THE CITY A THEATRE FOR THE CONFLICT WHICH WILL BRING DOWN CARTHAGE'S AMBITIONS.

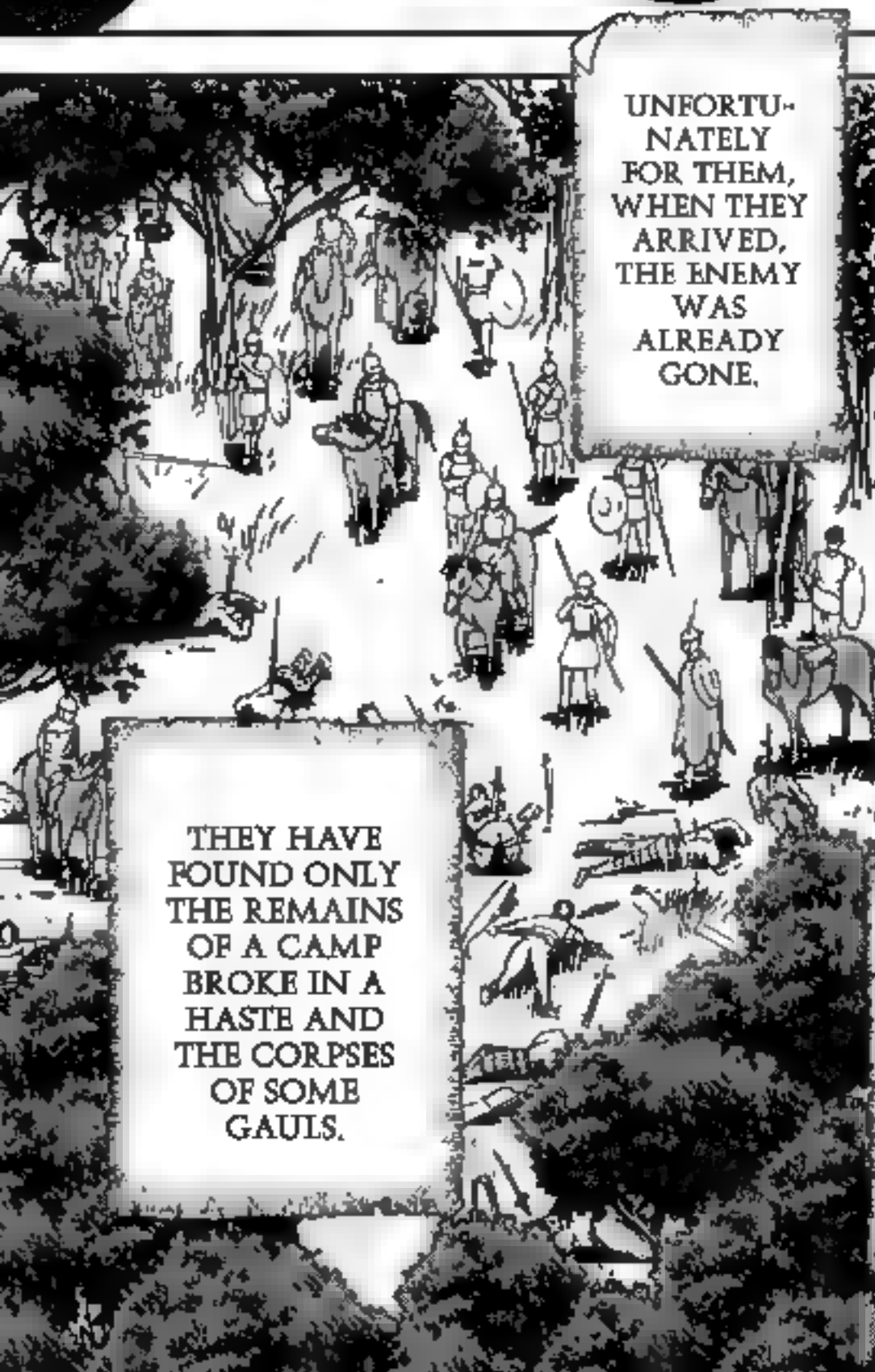
HAVE MARCHED WITH HIS MEN IN TOWARDS MASSILIA.

AFTER TAKING DOWN SAGUNTUM, HANNIBAL, DRIVEN BY A STRONG THIRST FOR REVENGE,

CARTHAGENA
(NEW CARTHAGE)

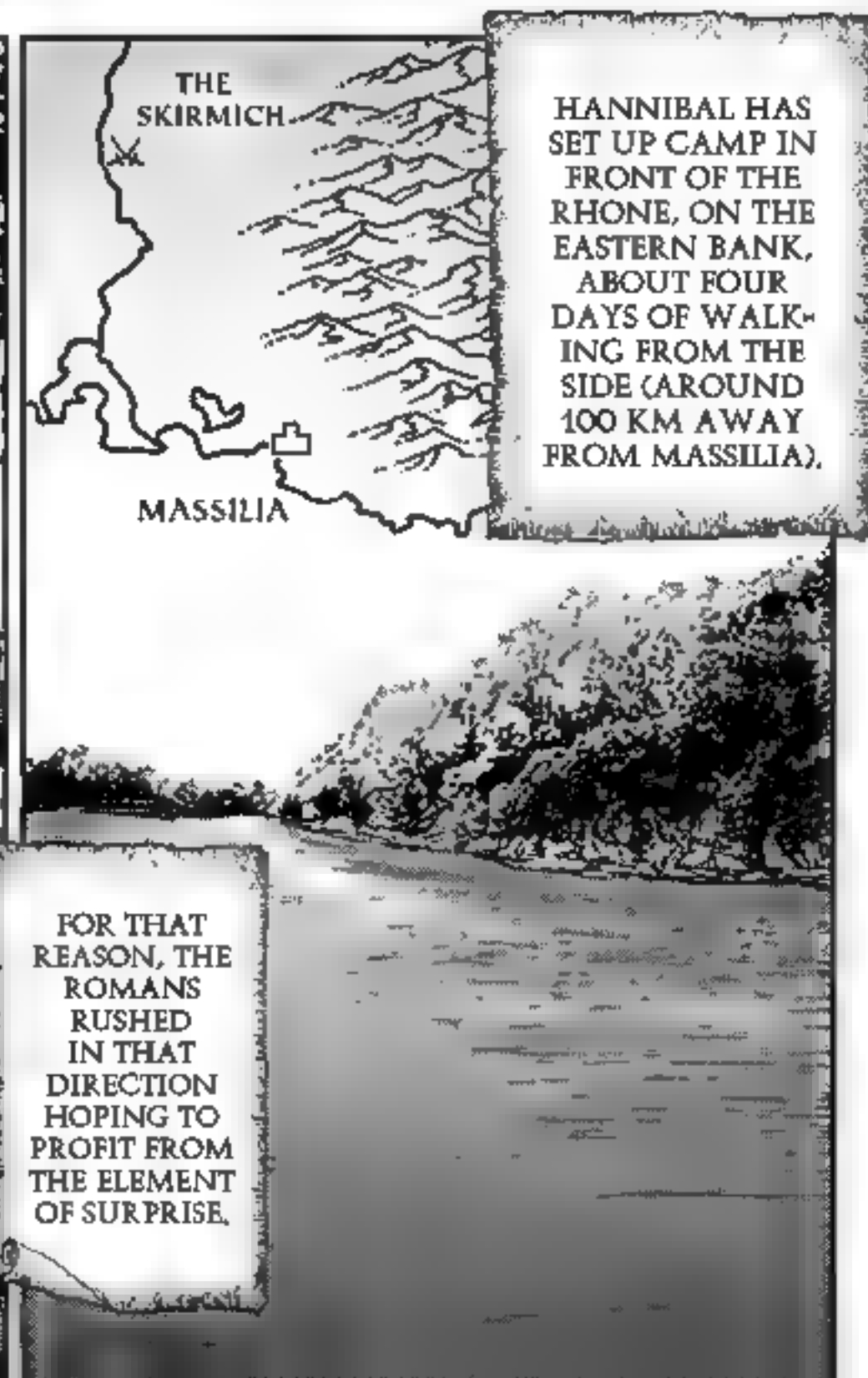
CARTHAGE

← HANNIBAL'S ARMY
← ROMAN ARMY



UNFORTUNATELY FOR THEM, WHEN THEY ARRIVED, THE ENEMY WAS ALREADY GONE.

THEY HAVE FOUND ONLY THE REMAINS OF A CAMP BROKE IN A HASTE AND THE CORPSES OF SOME GAULS.



THE SKIRMISH

MASSILIA

HANNIBAL HAS SET UP CAMP IN FRONT OF THE RHONE, ON THE EASTERN BANK, ABOUT FOUR DAYS OF WALKING FROM THE SIDE (AROUND 100 KM AWAY FROM MASSILIA).

FOR THAT REASON, THE ROMANS RUSHED IN THAT DIRECTION HOPING TO PROFIT FROM THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.

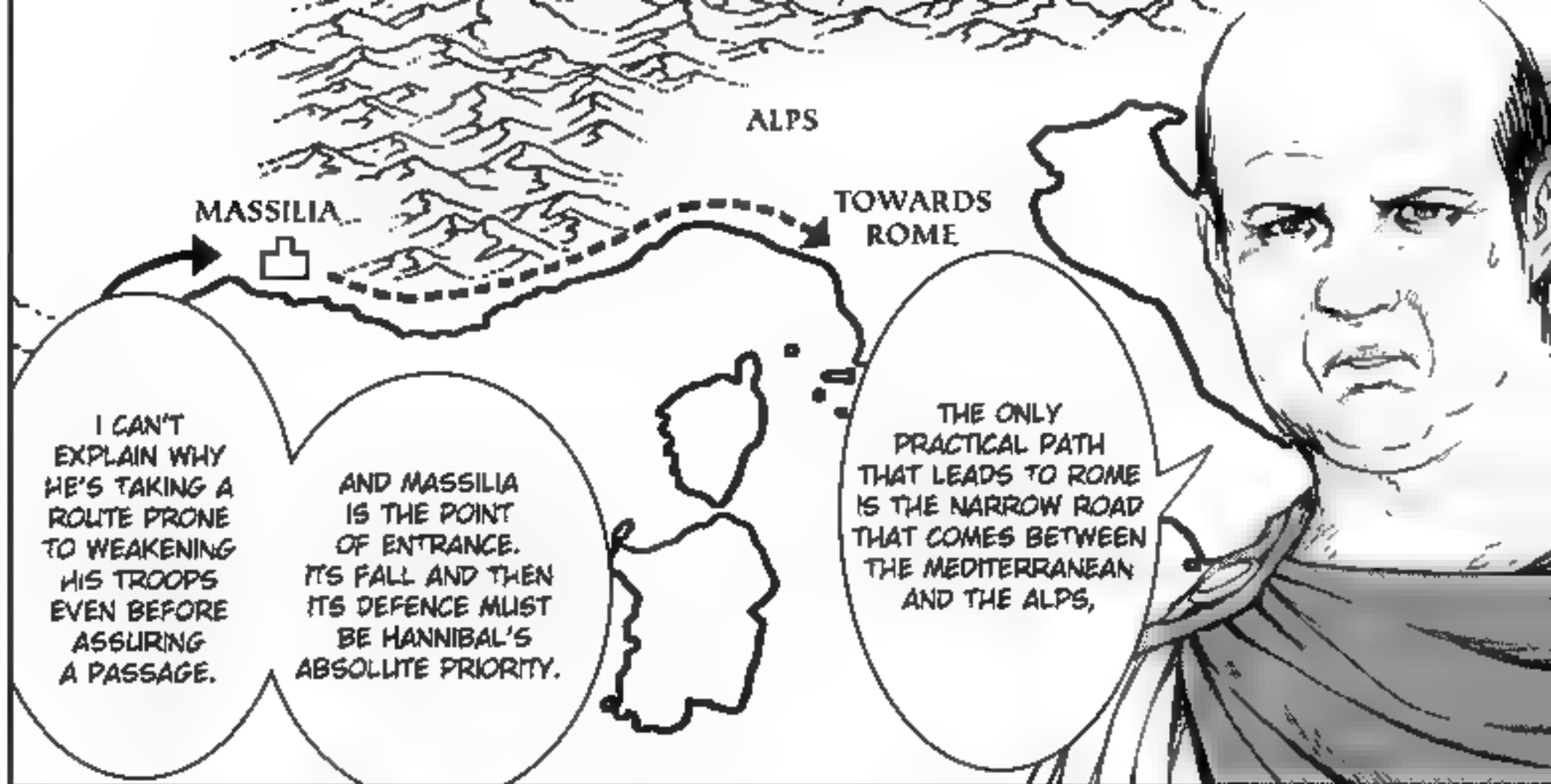
AND THAT SCIPIO AND HIS MEN WERE ABLE TO LOCATE THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

THE CARTHAGINIANS HAVE AVOIDED THE AMBUSH LEGIONS. IT WAS ONLY THANKS TO A SKIRMISH BETWEEN TWO PATROL CAMPS THAT TURNED THE ADVANTAGE TO ROME.



HOWEVER, THE ROMAN SOLDIERS HAVE WAITED TOO LONG AND HANNIBAL NEVER SHOWED AT THE CITY'S ENTRANCE.





I CAN'T EXPLAIN WHY HE'S TAKING A ROUTE PRONE TO WEAKENING HIS TROOPS EVEN BEFORE ASSURING A PASSAGE.

AND MASSILIA IS THE POINT OF ENTRANCE. ITS FALL AND THEN ITS DEFENCE MUST BE HANNIBAL'S ABSOLUTE PRIORITY.

THE ONLY PRACTICAL PATH THAT LEADS TO ROME IS THE NARROW ROAD THAT COMES BETWEEN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE ALPS,



REMEMBER THE FORMIDABLE STRATEGY HE EXECUTED IN HISPANIA.



WHAT?

MAYBE HE'S NEVER HAD THE INTENTION OF FIGHTING IN MASSILIA.



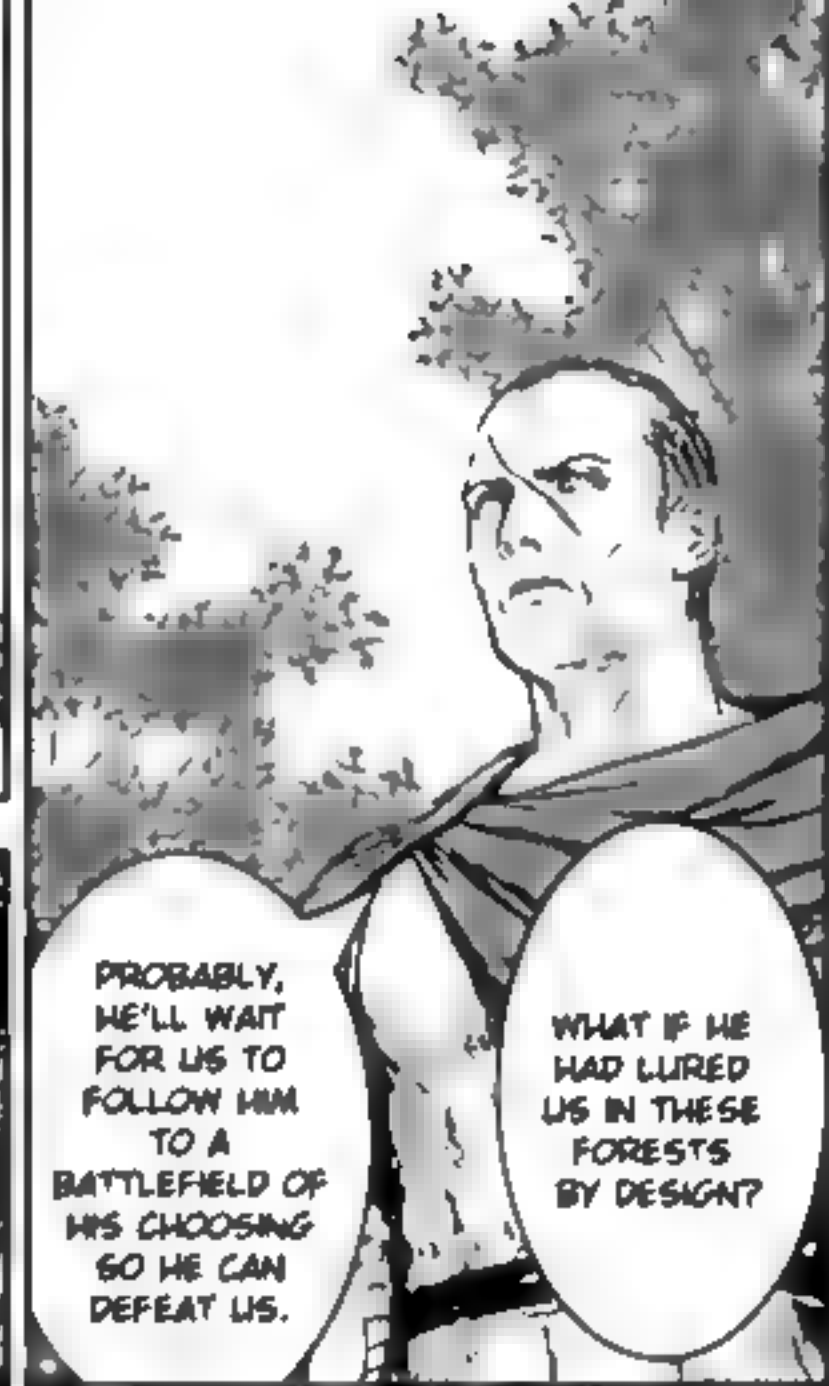
HOWEVER, THAT WAS ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF HIS TRAP. ONCE THE ENEMY GOT STUCK IN THE MUD, HANNIBAL'S ELEPHANTS AND CAVALRY HAD EASILY TAKEN OVER.

HE DELIBERATELY SHOWED WEAKNESS BY RUNNING AWAY, WHICH MADE THE ENEMY CHASE AFTER HIM.

KNOWING THAT HE CAN'T FACE THE 100,000 MEN BLOCKING HIS WAY,



HMM. OBVIOUSLY,
HIS MEN WILL
CERTAINLY BE MORE
COMFORTABLE
FIGHTING A WILD
BATTLE IN FORESTS
THAN A WAR UNDER
SIEGE IN MASSILIA.



PROBABLY,
WE'LL WAIT
FOR US TO
FOLLOW HIM
TO A
BATTLEFIELD OF
HIS CHOOSING
SO HE CAN
DEFEAT US.

WHAT IF HE
HAD LURED
US IN THESE
FORESTS
BY DESIGN?



IT WOULD BE
A SCHEME
WORTHY OF THE
CUNNING BOY
I'VE MET
BEFORE

WAS JUST
A TRAP
STAGED
TO LURE
US HERE.

IT'S EVEN
POSSIBLE THAT
THE VICTORY
OF OUR SMALL
RECON GROUP



YOU'RE
NO FUN.



... YOU
SURE
ABOUT
THAT?

I'M IMPRESSED,
SCIPIO. EVERYTHING
TURNED OUT
EXACTLY AS YOU
HAD PREDICTED.



WHAT
IS IT?



FATHER,
SOMETHING'S
BOTHERING ME
...



SINCE WE'RE
FOLLOWING HIM
IN A WAY, HE'S
OPENING THE
PATH FOR US...
AND BECAUSE
OF THAT, OUR
SQUADRON
REMAINS
UNDAMAGED.

THESE FORESTS
ARE THE GALLS'
TERRITORY.
HANNIBAL CANNOT
ADVANCE ONE STEP
WITHOUT HAVING
TO FIGHT THEM.

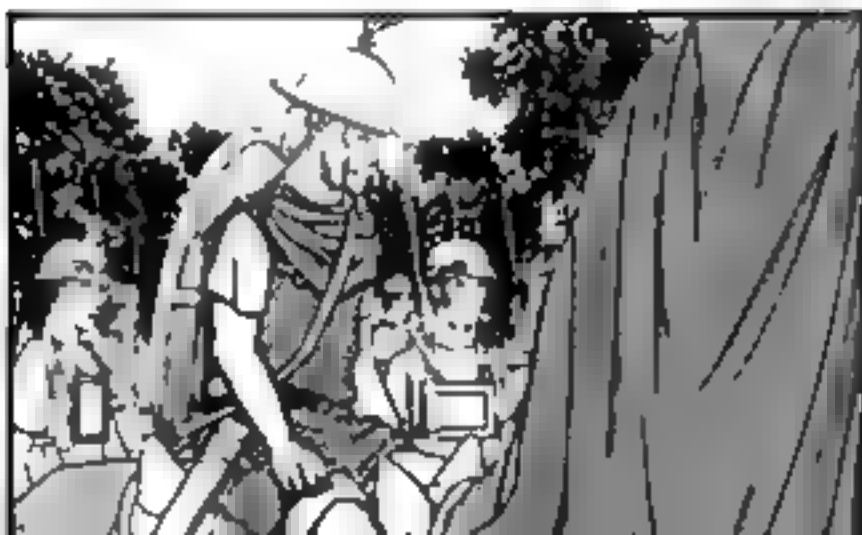


AND WHAT
WILL THAT
BE, IN YOUR
OPINION?



I DON'T THINK
HE'S TRYING TO
LURE US INTO
A BATTLE...
HE MUST HAVE
ANOTHER
OBJECTIVE!

WHEREAS,
HIS MEN MUST
BE TIRED AND
INJURED FOR
SURE! IN THESE
CONDITIONS,
EVEN A BATTLE
IN THE FORESTS
WON'T BE
TO THEIR
ADVANTAGE.







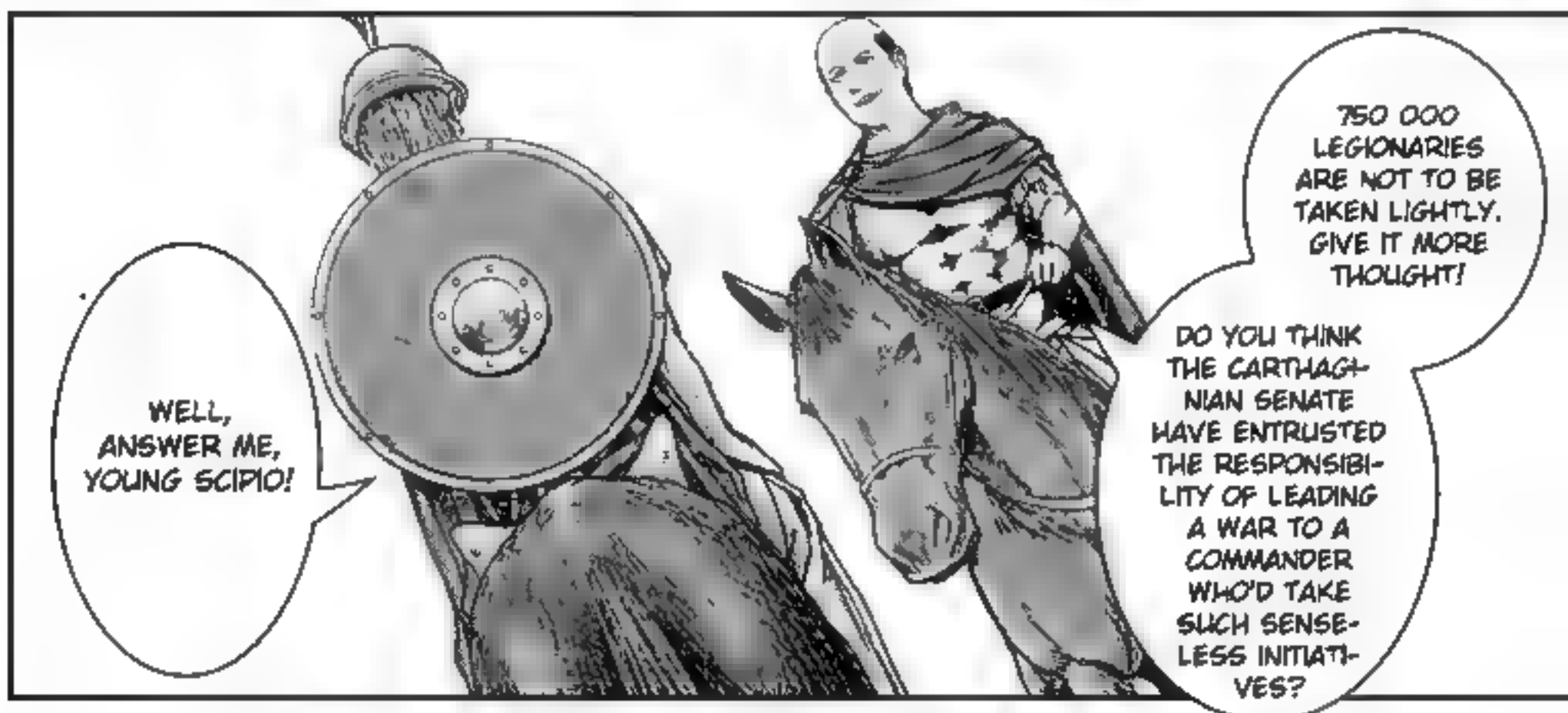
AND IF BY SOME MIRACLE, A FEW MANAGE TO CROSS ITS SUMMITS, DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT A TROOP OF MERCENARIES EXHAUSTED BY COLD AND SNOW MAY RESIST ROME'S COALITION ARMY?

THE ALPS ARE WAY TOO DAUNTING COMPARED TO THESE GALLIC LOOTS!



NO MERCENARY, NO MATTER HOW ENORMOUSLY PAID, WILL ACCEPT TO FOLLOW HIM IN SUCH DANGEROUS CONDITIONS.

IN DOING SO, HE'LL EXPOSE HIS MEN TO CERTAIN DEATH.



WELL, ANSWER ME, YOUNG SCIPIO!

750 000 LEGIONARIES ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. GIVE IT MORE THOUGHT!

DO YOU THINK THE CARTHAGINIAN SENATE HAVE ENTRUSTED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LEADING A WAR TO A COMMANDER WHO'D TAKE SUCH SENSELESS INITIATIVES?



ACTUALLY, I...



IN THE FUTURE, YOU WILL REFRAIN FROM INTERVENING IF YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ARGUMENTS. YOU HAVE A LOT MORE TO LEARN.



IT'S TRUE
THAT AT FIRST...

CHALLENGING THE
ROMAN FORCES
WITH A TROOP OF
50 000 WARRIORS
SEEMED COMPLETELY
-INSANE!



HEY,
STOP
IT!

HE
DEFLATED
YOU REAL
GOOD,

"YOUNG
SCIPIO".



AVE,
CONSUL!

I'M HAVING A HARD
TIME BELIEVING
THAT HANNIBAL IS
ENGAGING IN A
BATTLE HE CAN'T
WIN, AND YET...

T/N: AVE IS A LATIN WORD, USED BY THE ROMANS AS A SALUTATION AND GREETING, MEANING "HAIL"



AND THAT AN
INCURSION BY
HANNIBAL INTO
THEIR TERRITORY
COULD HAVE
BEEN OF A NATURE
THAT WOULD
TRIGGER
CONFRONTATIONS.



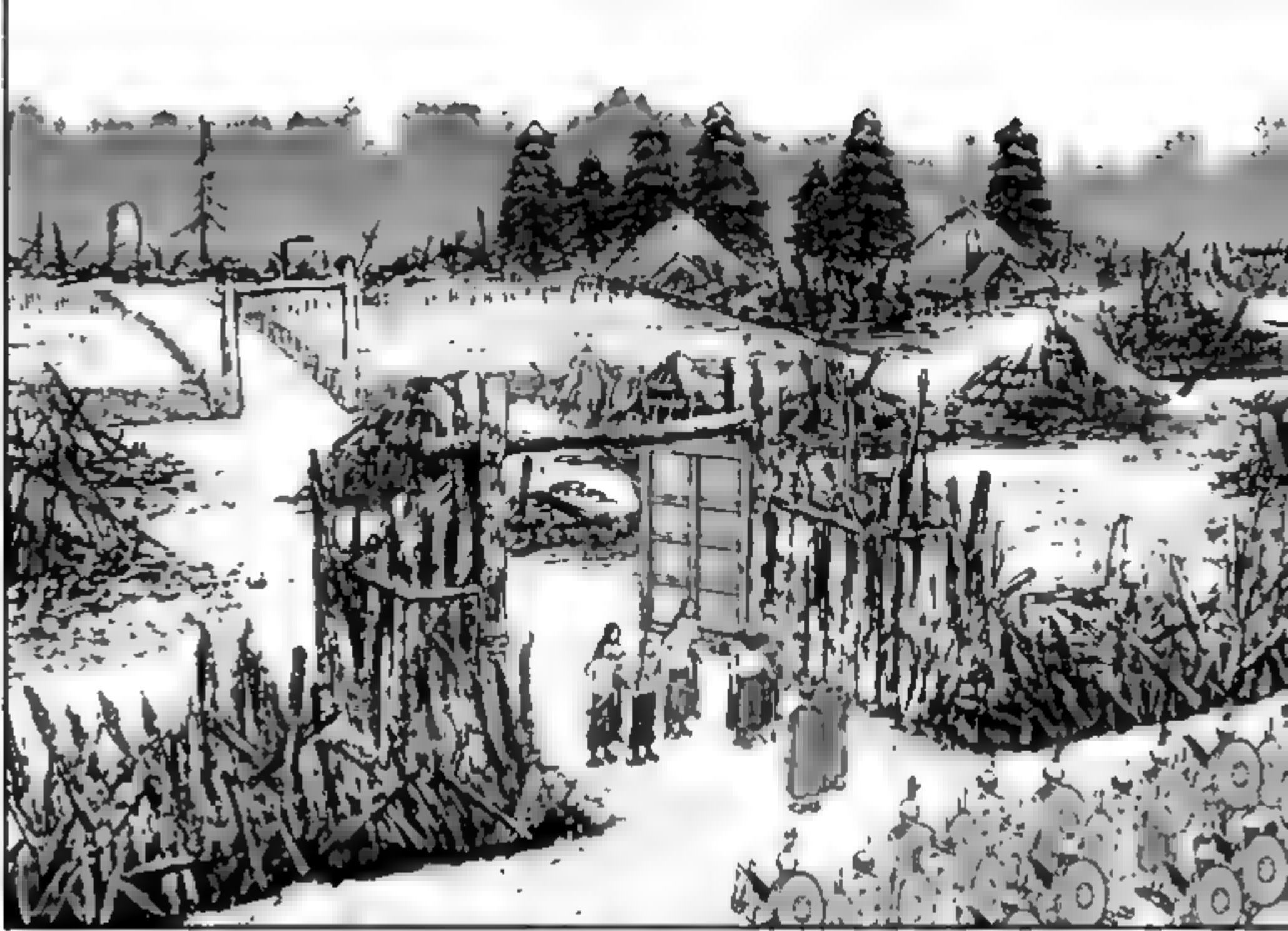
STAYING HERE
QUIBBLING
WON'T GET US
ANYWHERE!

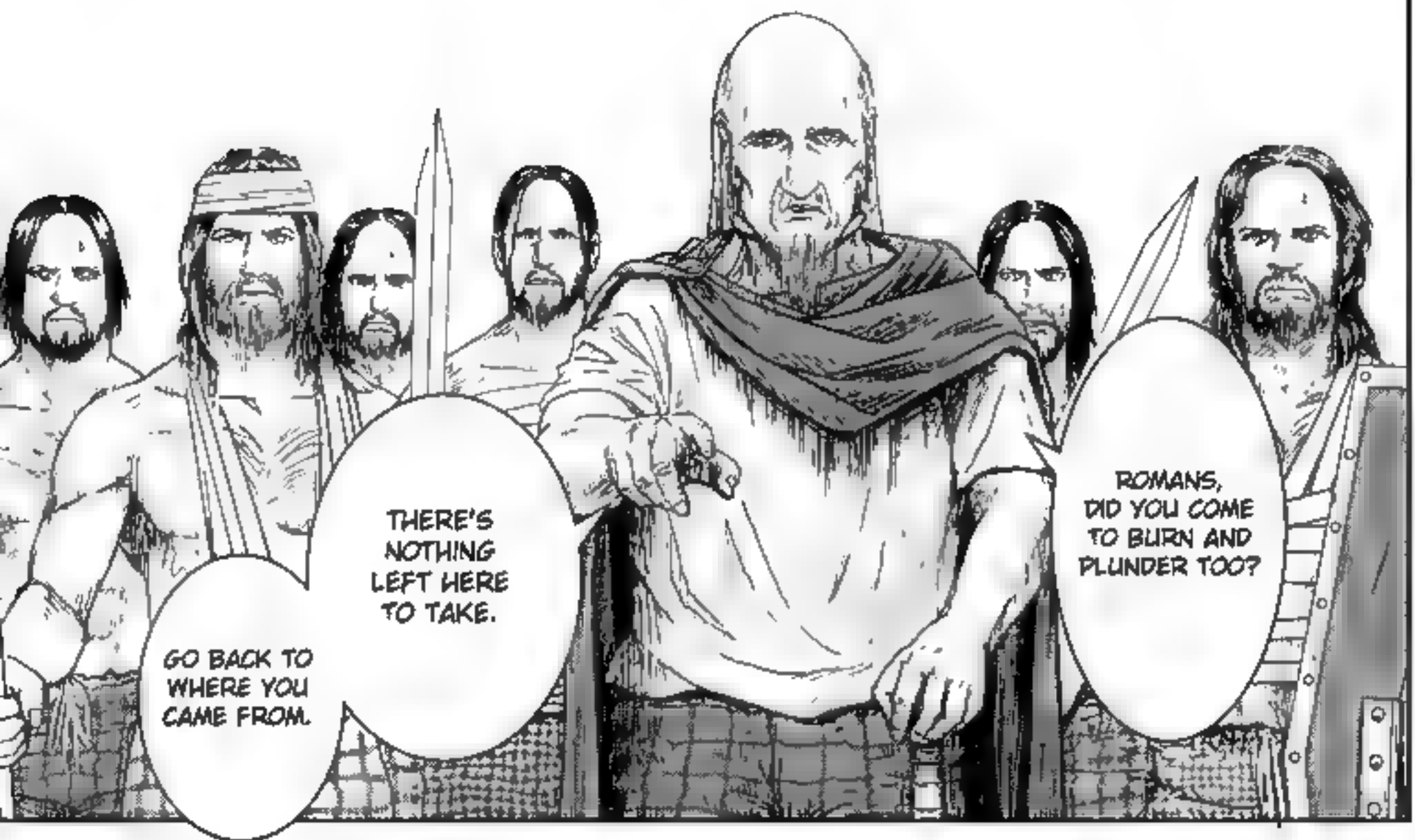
WELL,
IN THIS CASE,
LET'S KEEP
MOVING
IN THAT
DIRECTION.

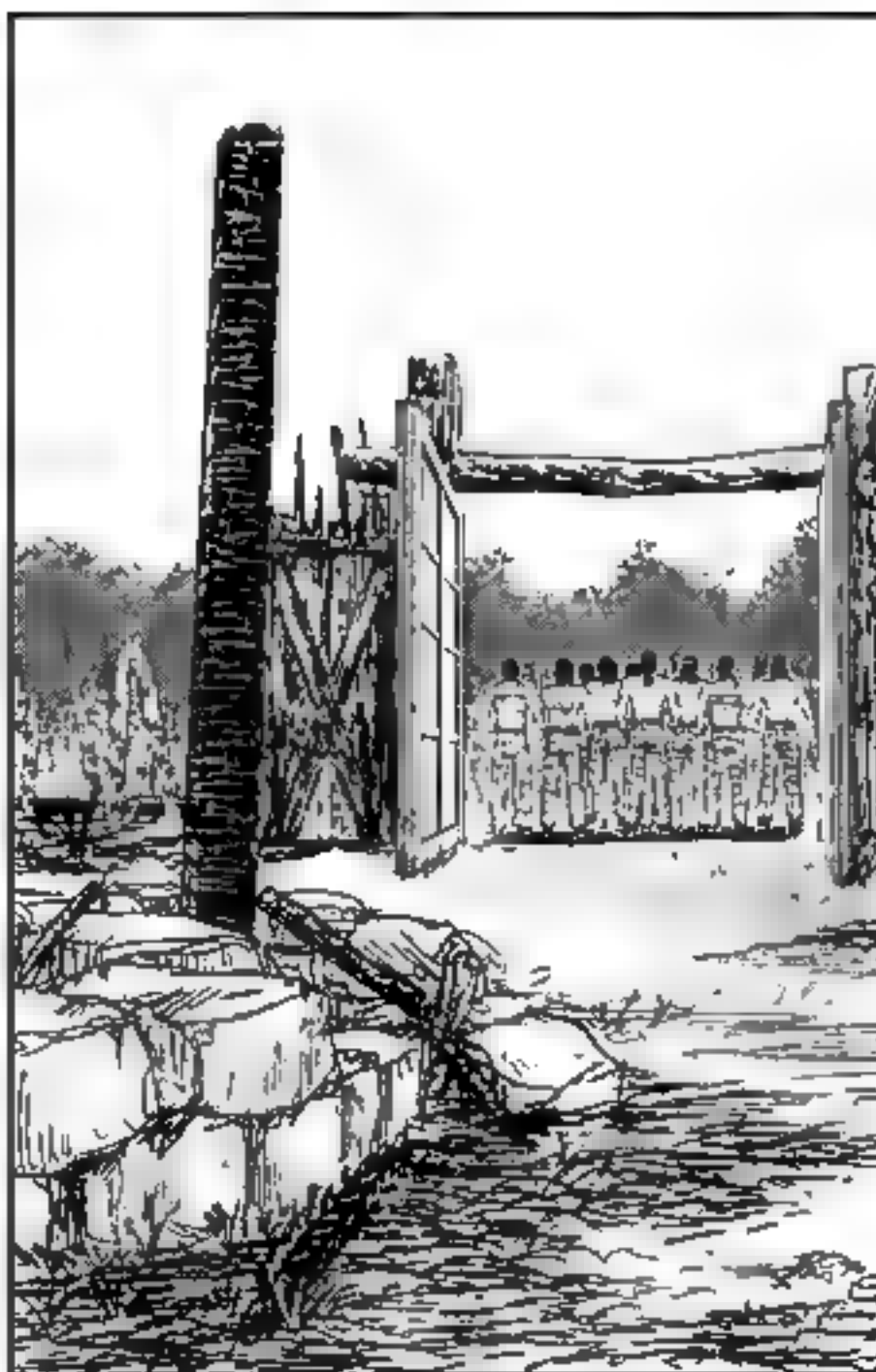
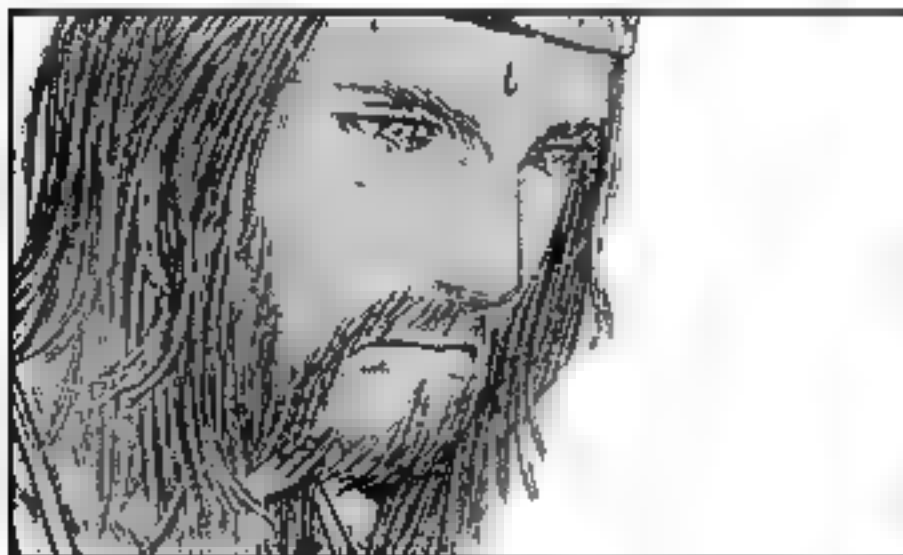


THAT THE
HILLS OF THE
NORTH-EAST
ARE INHABITED
BY THE VOLCAE.

THE
GARRISON
IN MASSILIA
HAVE
INFORMED
US









AND WE'VE
TAKEN POSITION
ON THE
EASTERN BANK
OF THE RIVER.

IN ORDER TO PREVENT
THE ENEMY FROM
CROSSING THE RHONE
I GATHERED THE
CAPABLE WARRIORS
OF THE REGION.



OUR VILLAGE
WAS IN FIRE.



HOWEVER, WHILE
WE WERE RUSHING TO
FIGHT, THE SOLDIERS
WHO WERE COMING
FROM THE OTHER
SIDE, A THICK CLOUD
OF BLACK SMOKE
APPEARED BEHIND
US.



WHILE WE RETRACED
OUR STEPS TO TRY
TO SAVE WHAT WE
COULD, THE MOST OF
THEIR TROOPS ALREADY
CROSSED THE RIVER,
EVERYTHING WAS
LOST.

A TRAITOR HAD
GUIDED A DETACHMENT
GROUP UP RIVER TO HELP
THEM CROSS
UNDETECTED.



HANNIBAL... WE DO BETTER
NOT TO UNDERESTIMATE HIM...



YOU SON
OF...



WELL,
YOU HAVEN'T
BEEN VERY
DELICATE,
WERE YOU?
NOW, WHERE
DID HE GO?



FOLLOWING
THE RHONE TO
THE NORTH!



THIS ROUTE
LEADS
STRAIGHT...

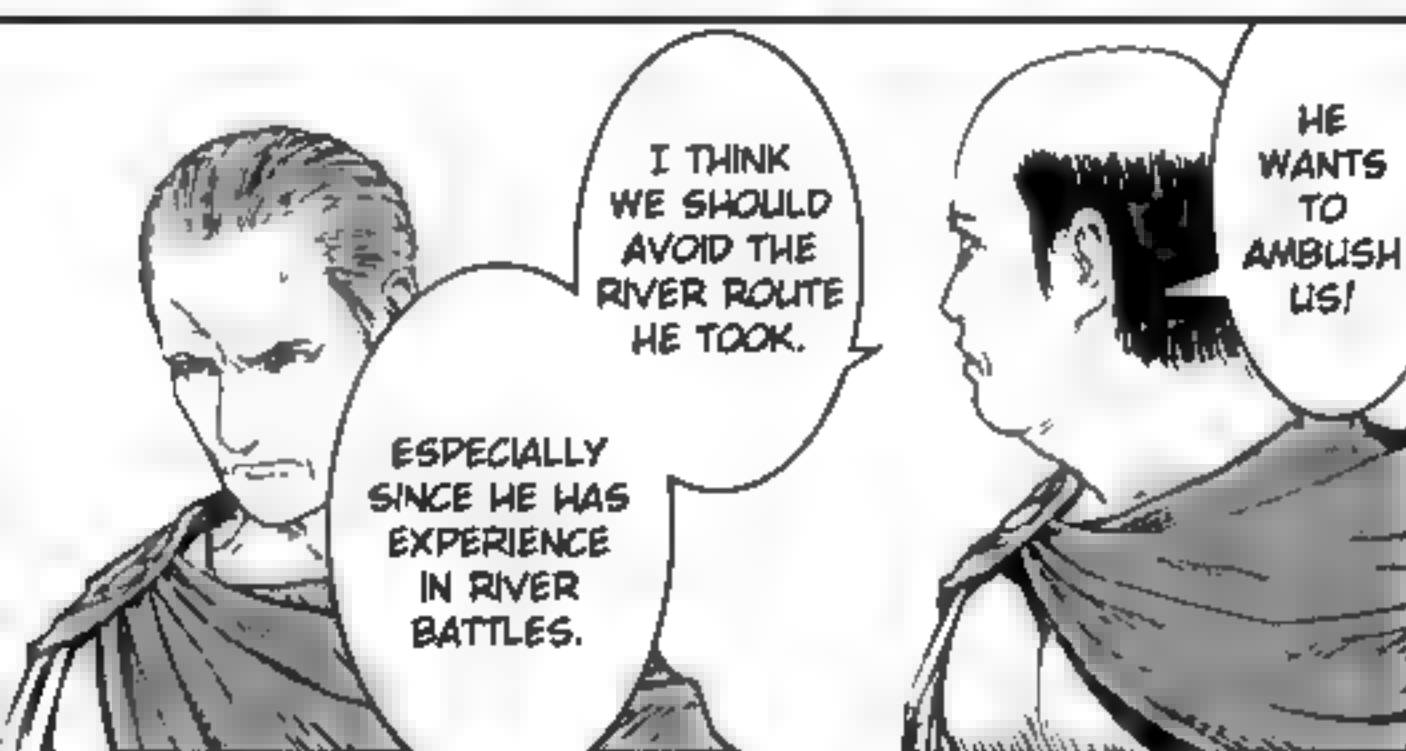


HE WENT
ALONG THE
RIVER TO
THE NORTH!
THAT'S ALL
WE KNOW.

WE HAVE
NOTHING
MORE TO
TELL YOU...
NOW LEAVE!



**TO THE
ALPS!**



I THINK
WE SHOULD
AVOID THE
RIVER ROUTE
HE TOOK.

HE
WANTS
TO
AMBUSH
US!

ESPECIALLY
SINCE HE HAS
EXPERIENCE
IN RIVER
BATTLES.

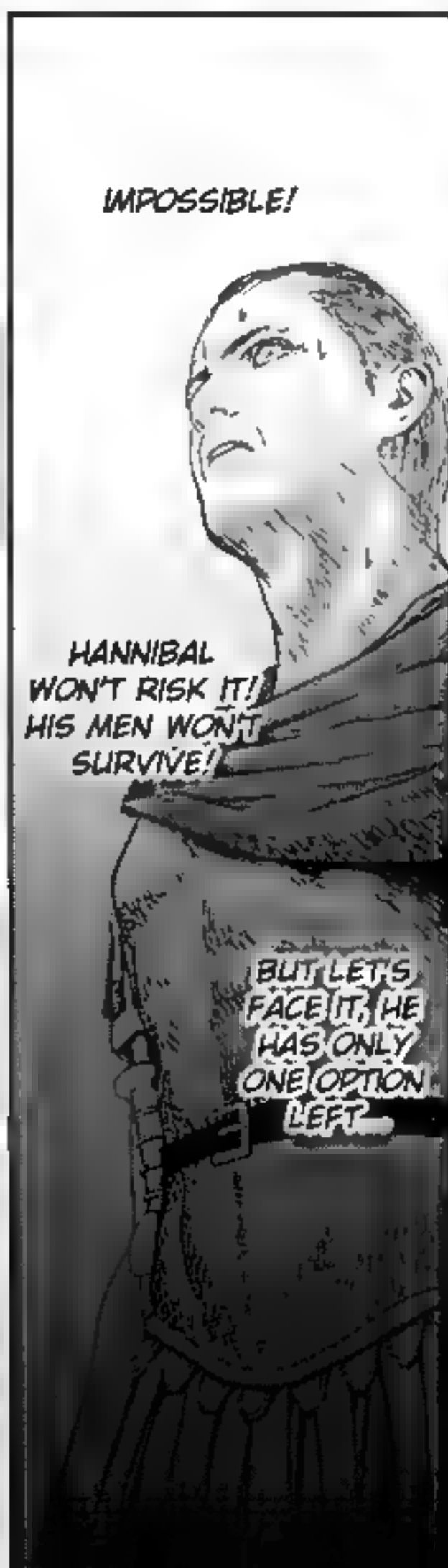


ONCE HE
DEFEATS US,
THERE ARE STILL
HUNDREDS OF
MILLIONS OF
SOLDIERS WAIT-
ING FOR HIM.

ANNIHILATING OUR
EXPEDITIONARY
CORPS WON'T
DO HIM ANY GOOD.



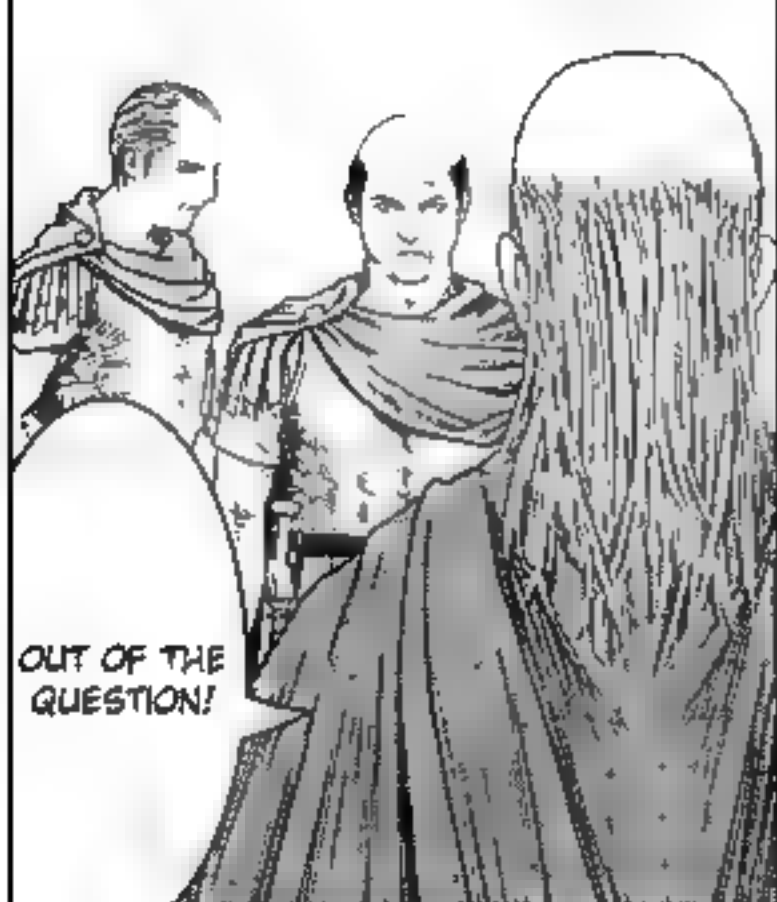
WHAT IS HE
REALLY
THINKING?



IMPOSSIBLE!

HANNIBAL
WON'T RISK IT!
HIS MEN WON'T
SURVIVE!

BUT LET'S
FACE IT, HE
HAS ONLY
ONE OPTION
LEFT.



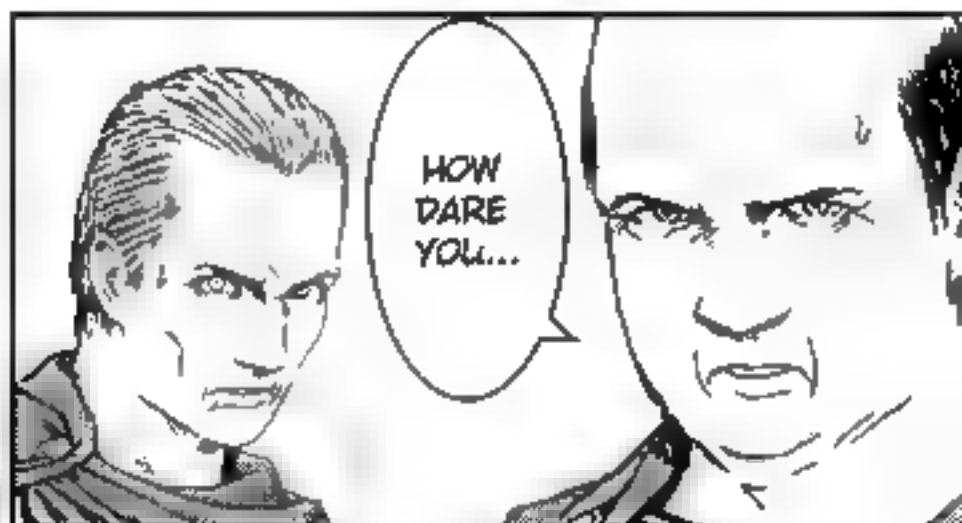
OUT OF THE QUESTION!



YOU'RE GOING TO PROVIDE US WITH A GUIDE WHO'LL FIND US A SAFE WAY.



WE HATE HANNIBAL, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN WE MUST HELP ARROGANT ROMANS SUCH AS YOU!



HOW DARE YOU...

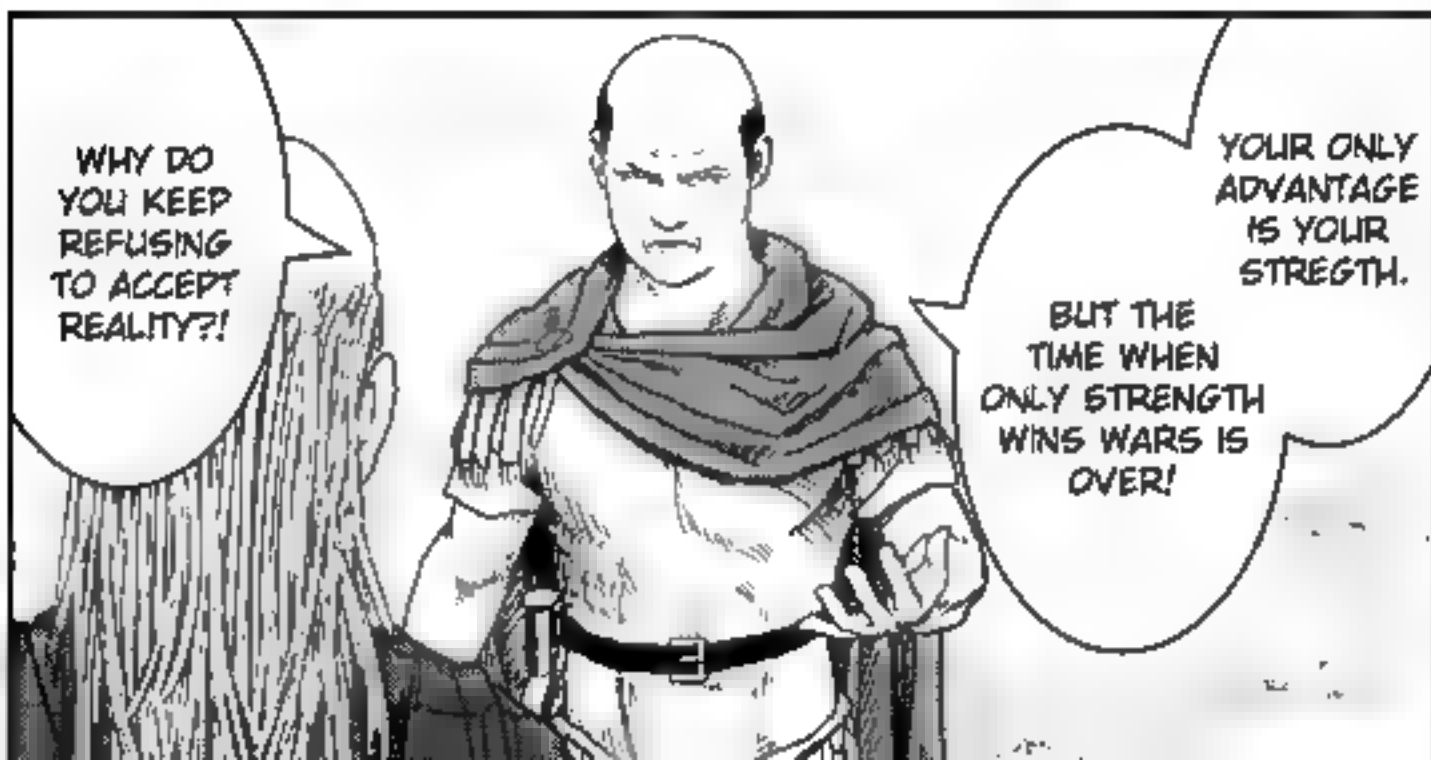


AN LITTER WASTE OF TIME, I MUST SAY. SINCE THEY KNEW WE'D CRUSH THEM WITHOUT CASUALTIES.

JUST BEFORE OUR DEPARTURE, WE HAD TO SUPPRESS A REVOLT LED BY THE BOII IN OUR NORTHERN COLONIES.



AH... NO MATTER WHAT TRIBE IT IS, THESE GAULS ARE ABSOLUTELY THE SAME. .



WHY DO YOU KEEP REFUSING TO ACCEPT REALITY?!

YOUR ONLY ADVANTAGE IS YOUR STRENGTH.

BUT THE TIME WHEN ONLY STRENGTH WINS WARS IS OVER!

STUPID LIKE DONKEYS AND PROUD LIKE ROOSTERS!



OPEN YOUR EYES...
YOU'RE UNDER OUR
THUMB! NEVER AGAIN,
WE WILL LET YOU
SPREAD TERROR
AROUND THE
MEDITERRANEAN!

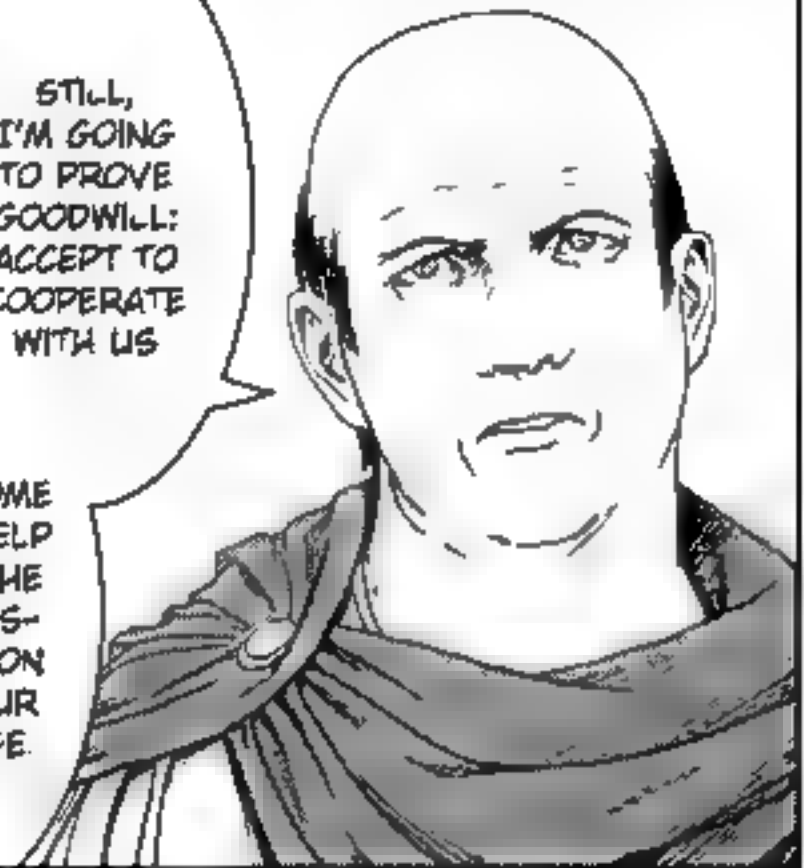
ROME
SURPASSES
YOU IN TERMS OF
STRICKTNESS AND
ORGANIASATION...

EVEN THE
CRUDE TRICKS
OF HANNIBAL
ARE ENOUGH TO
FOOL YOU AND
REDUCE YOUR
HOUSES TO
ASHES.



STILL,
I'M GOING
TO PROVE
GOODWILL:
ACCEPT TO
COOPERATE
WITH US

AND ROME
WILL HELP
WITH THE
RECONS-
TRUCTION
OF YOUR
VILLAGE.



EH... HEY,
WHAT'S
WRONG?!



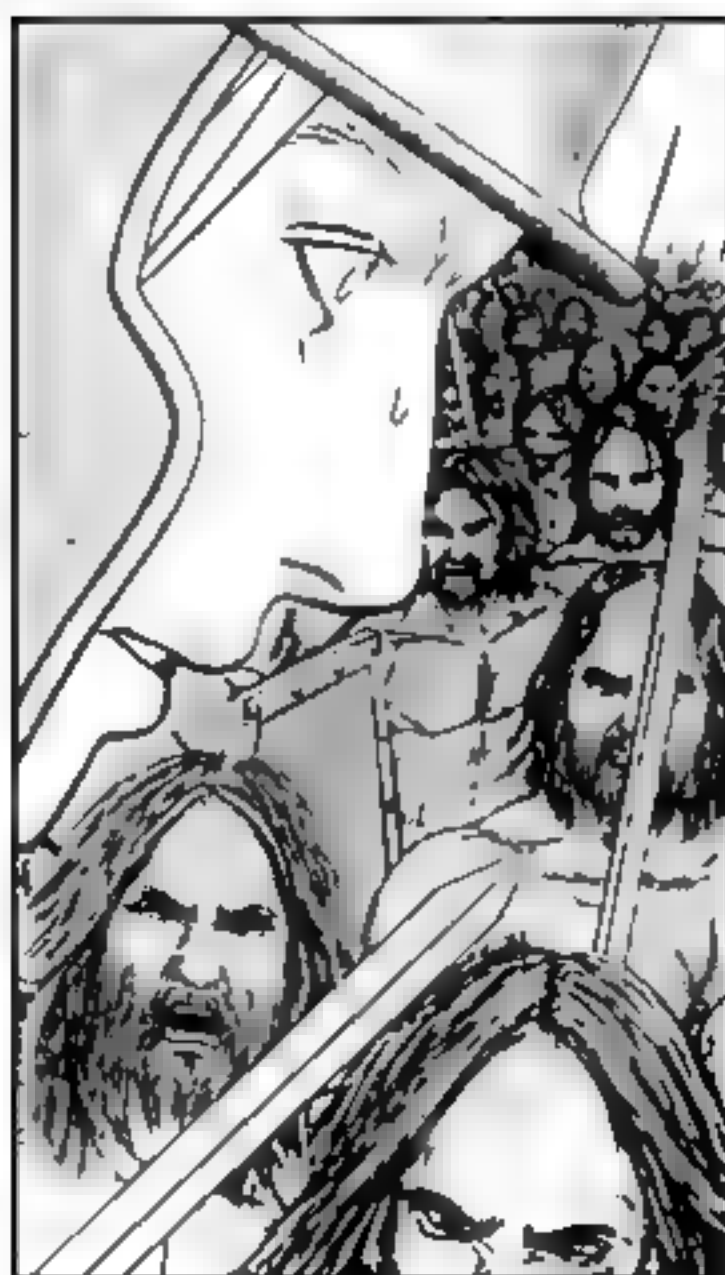
THESE GALLS
ARE SURE
STUBBORN!

WHY ARE
THEY KEEP
REFUSING
WHEN IT'S
US WHO'RE
GOING TO
PAY? WHAT
DO YOU SAY,
SCIPIO?



OF THE
BOII!

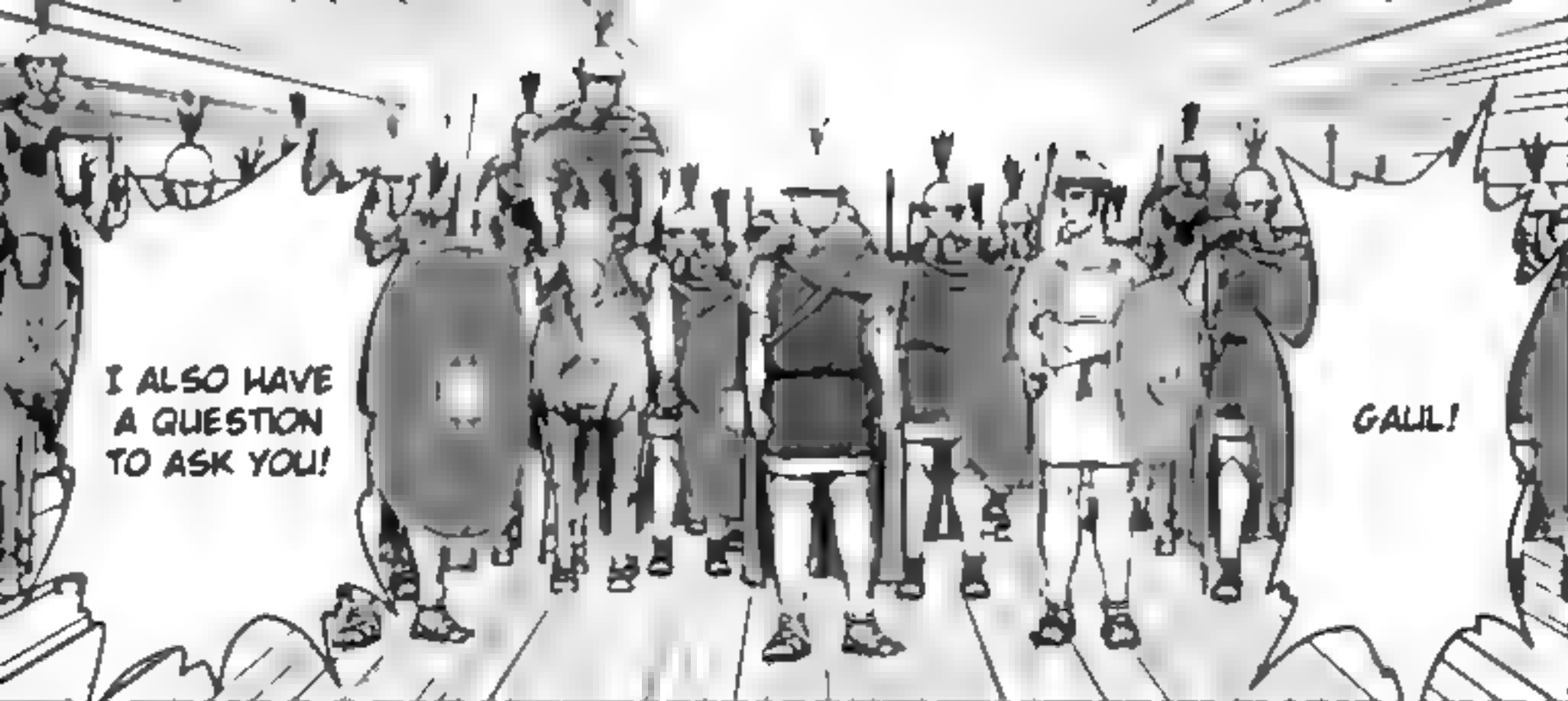
THE
REVOLT...



BUT, IF THIS RIOT
HAD NOT DELAYED
OUR LEGIONS, THEY
WOULD HAVE
REACHED HISPANIA
JUST IN TIME
TO STOP HANNIBAL!

HEY!

IT WAS ONE OF
THOSE IMPLUSIVE
AND RECKLESS-
ACTIONS THAT
THE GAULS ARE
KNOWN FOR...!
AT LEAST, THAT'S
HOW IT LOOKS LIKE.



I ALSO HAVE
A QUESTION
TO ASK YOU!

GAUL!



SPEAK,
ROMAN...

.....



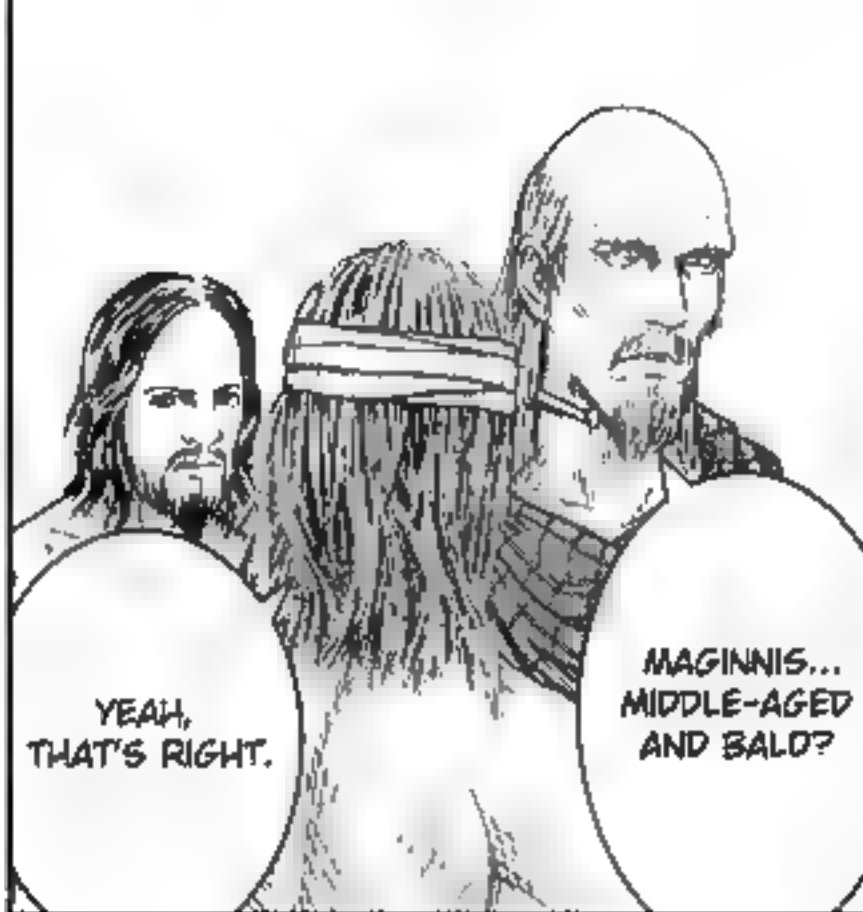
WASNT
VOLCAE,
WAS HE?

THIS TRAITOR
WHO GUIDED
HANNIBAL UP
THE RIVER.



NO, I
DONT
THINK
SO...

HUH?



YEAH,
THAT'S RIGHT.

MAGINNIS...
MIDDLE-AGED
AND BALD?

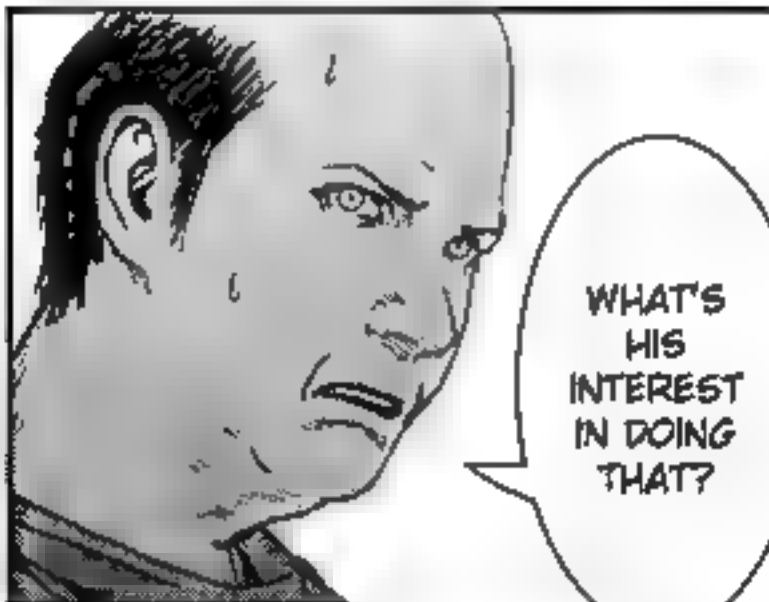


I DON'T THINK
SO TOO...
I'VE NEVER
SEEN HIM BEFORE.

BUT WE CAN SAY
FROM THE COLLAR
HE HAS AROUND
HIS NECK THAT HE'S
SOMEONE OF IMPORTANCE
IF MEMORY SERVES
RIGHT, I THINK HE'S
CALLED MAGINNIS!



WHAT?
A BOIEN?!



WHAT'S
HIS
INTEREST
IN DOING
THAT?




IN THAT CASE,
HE'S DEFINITELY
THE SON OF
THE BOII TRIBE'S
GREAT CHIEF.



ITS ONLY
PURPOSE
WAS TO
SLOW US
DOWN!

THIS SUDDEN
BOIEN REVOLT...

HAD NOTHING
TO DO WITH
ROMAN'S
COLONISATION
POLICY!



TO GUIDE HIM
THROUGH THE
ALPS!

THE BOII HAVE
SIDED WITH
HANNIBAL



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
THIS...



OR ELSE,
YOU'RE
GOING TO
ATTRACT
YOUR UNCLE'S
THUNDER
AGAIN!

I HOPE
YOU'RE
CERTAIN
OF WHAT
YOU JUST
SAID,
SCIPIO...



HOW
COULD
WE BE
THIS
NAIVE?!



EVEN
AFTER I'VE
EXPLAINED
TO YOU

AGAIN
WITH THESE
SENSELESS
HYPOTHESES

THAT SUCH
A MOUNTAIN
CROSSING
IS A PURE
SUICIDE!



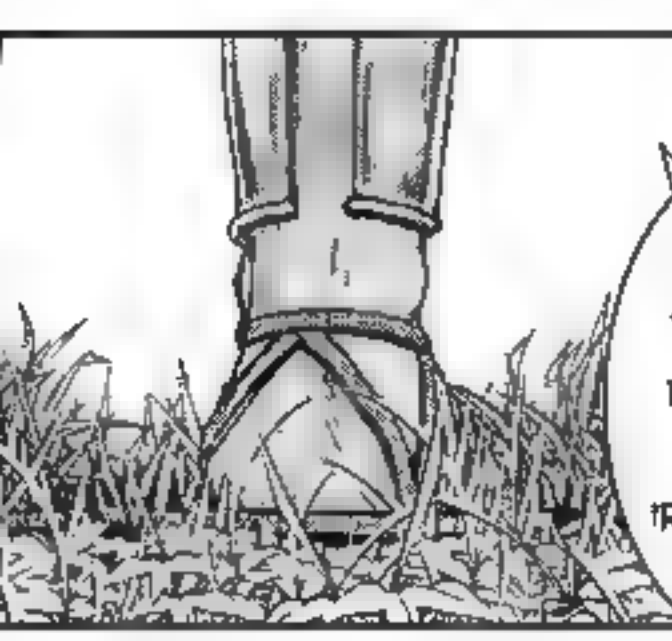
.....
?



AMONG THE
GAULS WHO
INHABIT THE
PLAIN, WHO'RE
READY TO
FIGHT THE
REPUBLIC!

ON THE
OTHER SIDE,
NORTH OF
ROME, THERE
ARE MANY
WARRIORS

THE MEN
HANNIBAL WILL
LOSE IN THE
ALPS CAN BE
QUICKLY
REPLACED.



WHICH
JUSTIFIES
THE
DECISIONS
THAT WE
TOOK AS
IRRATIONAL!

THAT MAY
BE TRUE, BUT
THIS IS A
SIMPLE AND
REASONABLE
ANSWER



THAT'S
QUITE
UNLIKELY.



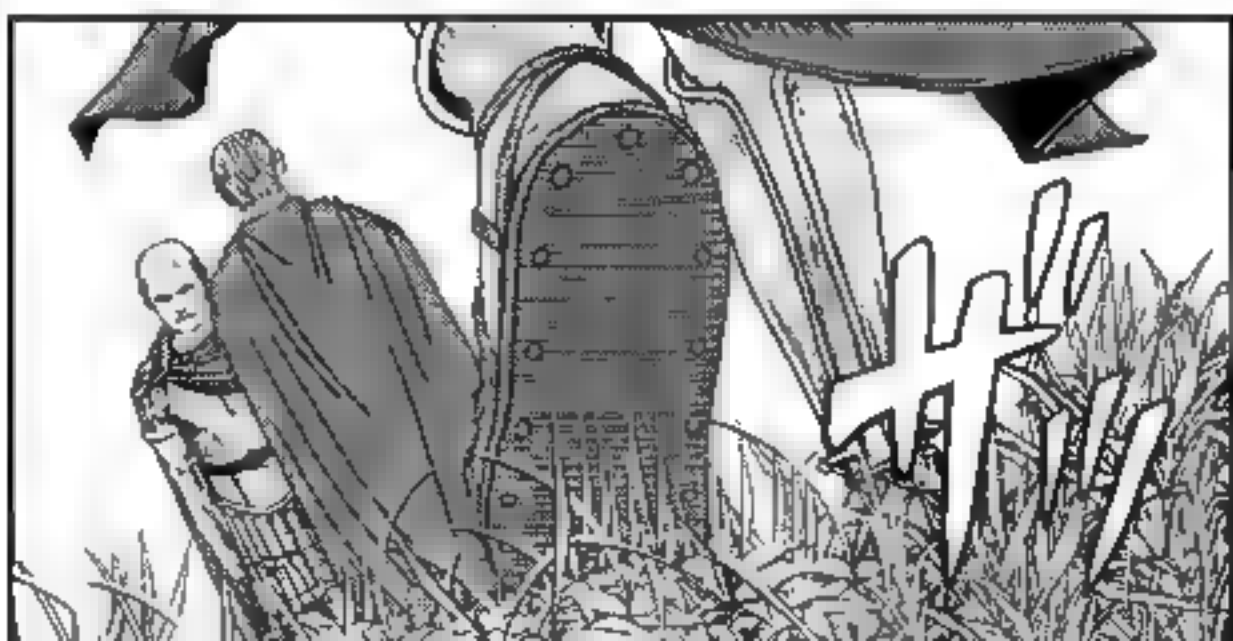
SINCE THE
BEGINNING,
WE'VE TAKEN
THE WRONG
WAY! THE WAR
HE'S PLANNING
FOR...

IS NOT
A WAR WHERE
WE WILL FIGHT
MERCENARIES
LED BY
UNCONSCIOUS
REVENGE!



BUT ALSO THE
REASON CAR-
THAGE HAS RE-
FUSED TO DELI-
VER US HANNI-
BAL AND TOOK
THE RISK OF
ENGAGING IN A
DESEPERATE
SCHEME.

THIS NOT
ONLY EXPLAINS
WHY HANNIBAL
HAS PREFERRED
AVOIDING THE
BATTLE IN
MASSILIA TO
KEEP ADVANCING
...



THAT IS THE
REAL PROJECT
OF HANNIBAL!

ROME WILL
FACE A UNITED
ARMY OF
GAULS AND
CARTHAGINIANS





THIS DOESN'T
SOUND GOOD...

DID YOU
HEAR THAT?



THEY WERE
CERTAINLY
WORRIED
THAT THE
INFORMATION
MIGHT BE
DISCLOSED
BEFORE
THEY COULD
REACH THE
ALPS.

WHY DIDN'T
THE BOII
TELL US?



AND SMART
ENOUGH TO
TRICK OUR
BEST STRATE-
GISTS, GETS
TO RALLY THE
BOII AND
OTHER GAULS
TO FOLLOW
HIM.

IF
SOMEONE
LIKE
HANNIBAL,

WHO'S PERSUA-
SIVE ENOUGH
TO CONVINCE
MERCENARIES
TO TAKE THE
DEADLY RISK
OF CROSSING
THE ALPS WHEN
ONLY MONEY
BINDS THEM TO
CARTHAGE

THE GAULS
ARE MUCH
STRONGER AND
BIGGER THAN
THE ROMANS,

BUT UP
UNTIL NOW,
NO GENERAL
HAS BEEN
ABLE TO
SUBDUCE THEM!



CERTAINLY, IT'D
BE THE MOST
DANGEROUS ENEMY
IN OUR HISTORY!

ROME IS GOING
TO FACE AN
ENEMY AS
CLINING AND
AS STRONG
AS HER.



WE HAVE TO
GO BACK TO
ROME AND STRIKE
BEFORE HE MANAGES
TO GET THE CELTS
TO JOIN HIM!

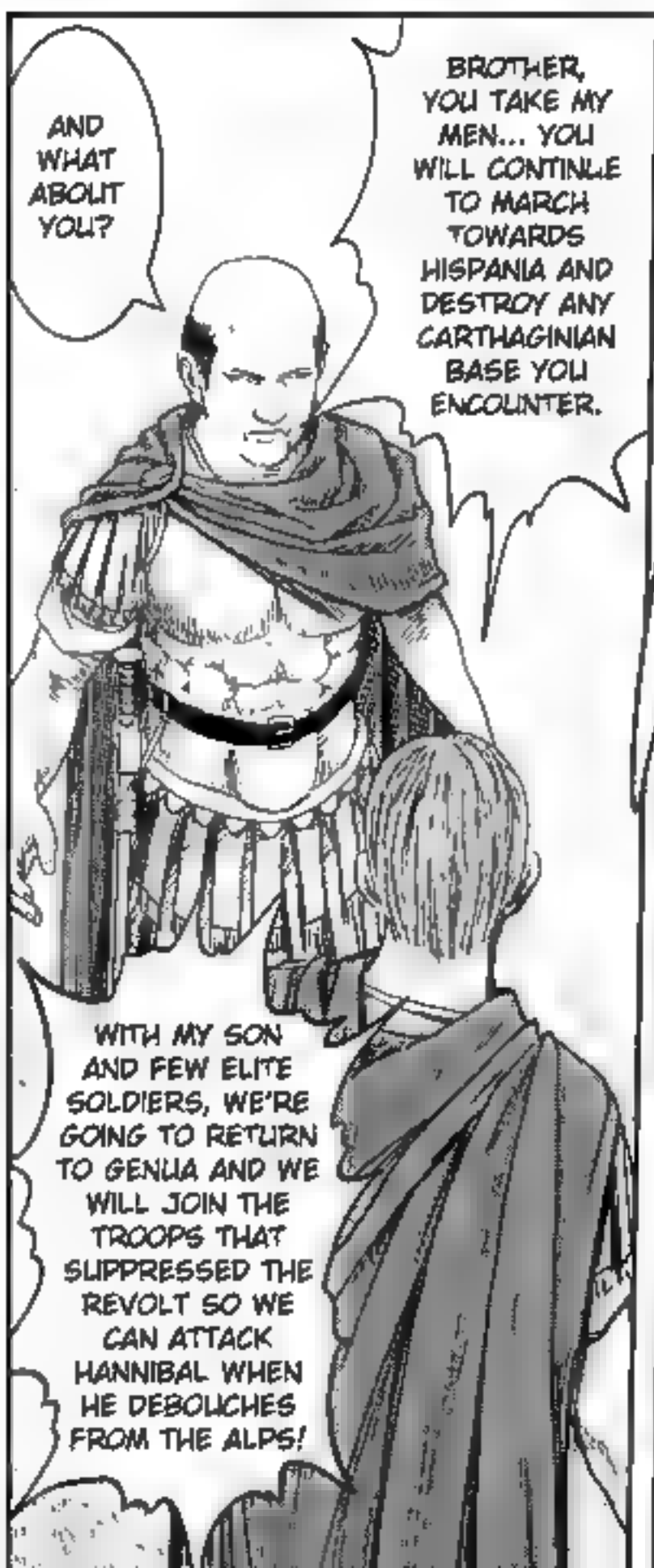
HANNIBAL'S
ARMY IS THREE
DAYS AHEAD OF
US, WE WON'T
CATCH UP.



CAN YOU
COME UP WITH A
MORE REASONABLE
ANSWER TO THIS,
BROTHER?



IS IT FINE
TO TAKE SUCH
A DECISION
WITHOUT
CONSULTING
ROME?



AND
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?

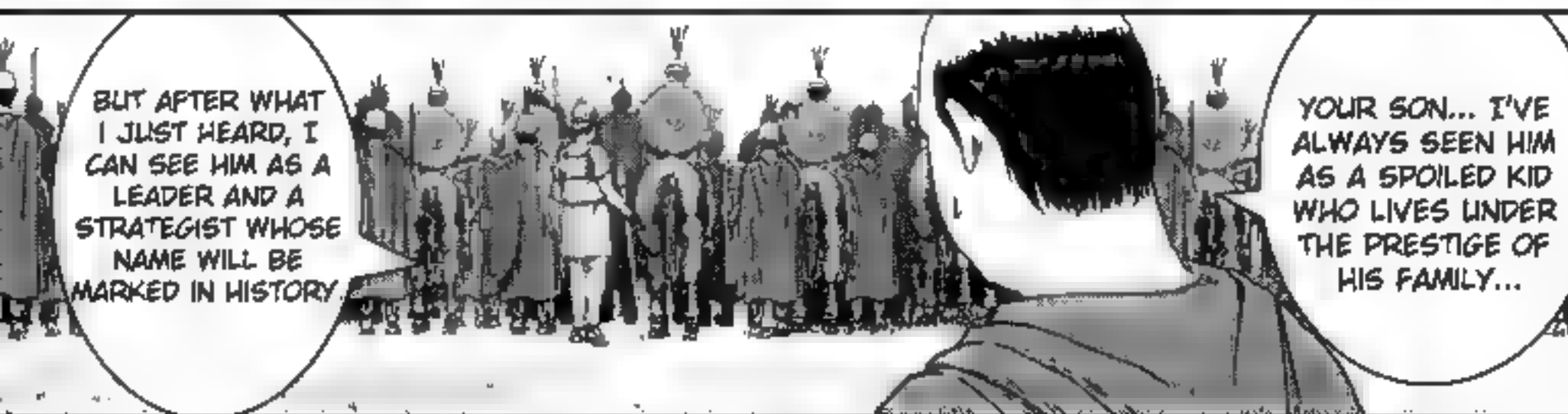
BROTHER,
YOU TAKE MY
MEN... YOU
WILL CONTINUE
TO MARCH
TOWARDS
HISPANIA AND
DESTROY ANY
CARTHAGINIAN
BASE YOU
ENCOUNTER.

WITH MY SON
AND FEW ELITE
SOLDIERS, WE'RE
GOING TO RETURN
TO GENUA AND WE
WILL JOIN THE
TROOPS THAT
SUPPRESSED THE
REVOLT SO WE
CAN ATTACK
HANNIBAL WHEN
HE DEBOUCHES
FROM THE ALPS!



WE DON'T
HAVE
ANY MORE
TIME TO
WASTE
HERE!

SOLDIERS,
PREPARE
TO LEAVE!





ad astra

SCIPIO TO HANNIBAL

CREATED BY MIHAGHI KAGANO

HISTORICAL NOTES

GIVEN THE ACCURACY OF HISTORICAL EVENTS IN THIS MANGA, I FELT THE POTENTIAL OF DEDICATING A PAGE OR TWO FOR EACH CHAPTER IN ORDER TO MENTION MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE EVENTS THAT OCCUR IN IT AND THIS IS ONLY FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE MANGA AND ALSO TO APPRECIATE AND ENJOY IT MORE. HOWEVER, THE MANGA'S NARRATIVE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THE READER TO UNDERSTAND THE SETTING AND THE STORY WITHOUT RESORTING TO OUTSIDE SOURCES.

* * *

I WILL QUOTE INFORMATION FROM THE NET (WIKIPEDIA, ETC...) AND FROM HISTORY BOOKS ABOUT THE MATTER. I MAY CHOOSE LONG QUOTES BUT IT'S UP TO YOU TO READ IT OR NOT. WELL, THINK OF IT AS A SUPER EXTENDED TRANSLATOR'S NOTE OR FURTHER READINGS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO READ!

* * *

NOT ALL THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS PAGE CAN BE CONSIDERED COMPLETELY TRUE.

EPISODE 3: THE AWAKENING OF THE YOUNG LION

HANNIBAL'S CROSSING OF THE RHONE



Map taken from "Hannibal" By Theodore Ayrault Dodge

There are many accounts on the crossing of the Rhone. Overall, they are quite similar but still, there are differences concerning few details. I had hard time looking for a simple and comprehensive quotation; I hope the following one is.

Crossing the Rhone

By the time Hannibal had reached the Pyrenees, Publius Scipio had replaced the legion and allied troops he had sent to help suppress the Gallic revolt in the Po that, some months earlier, had delayed his originally scheduled departure for Spain. Now he was ready to undertake his mission to find Hannibal and prevent his advance into Italy. Scipio's army of twenty thousand men marched the 165 miles from Rome to Pisa, where they boarded the transports for the five-day sail to Massilia. [...] as it was, Hannibal was already moving up the Rhone when Scipio set sail from Pisa. Livy says, however, that Scipio thought that Hannibal was still in Spain and did not learn that Hannibal was at the Rhone until Scipio landed "at the easternmost mouth of the Rhone" near massilia. Thus, Scipio did not arrive off Massilia until mid-September. After unloading his troops and equipment, Scipio sent out a unit of three hundred cavalry, accompanied by local Gauls serving as guides, to ride up the Rhone and find Hannibal.

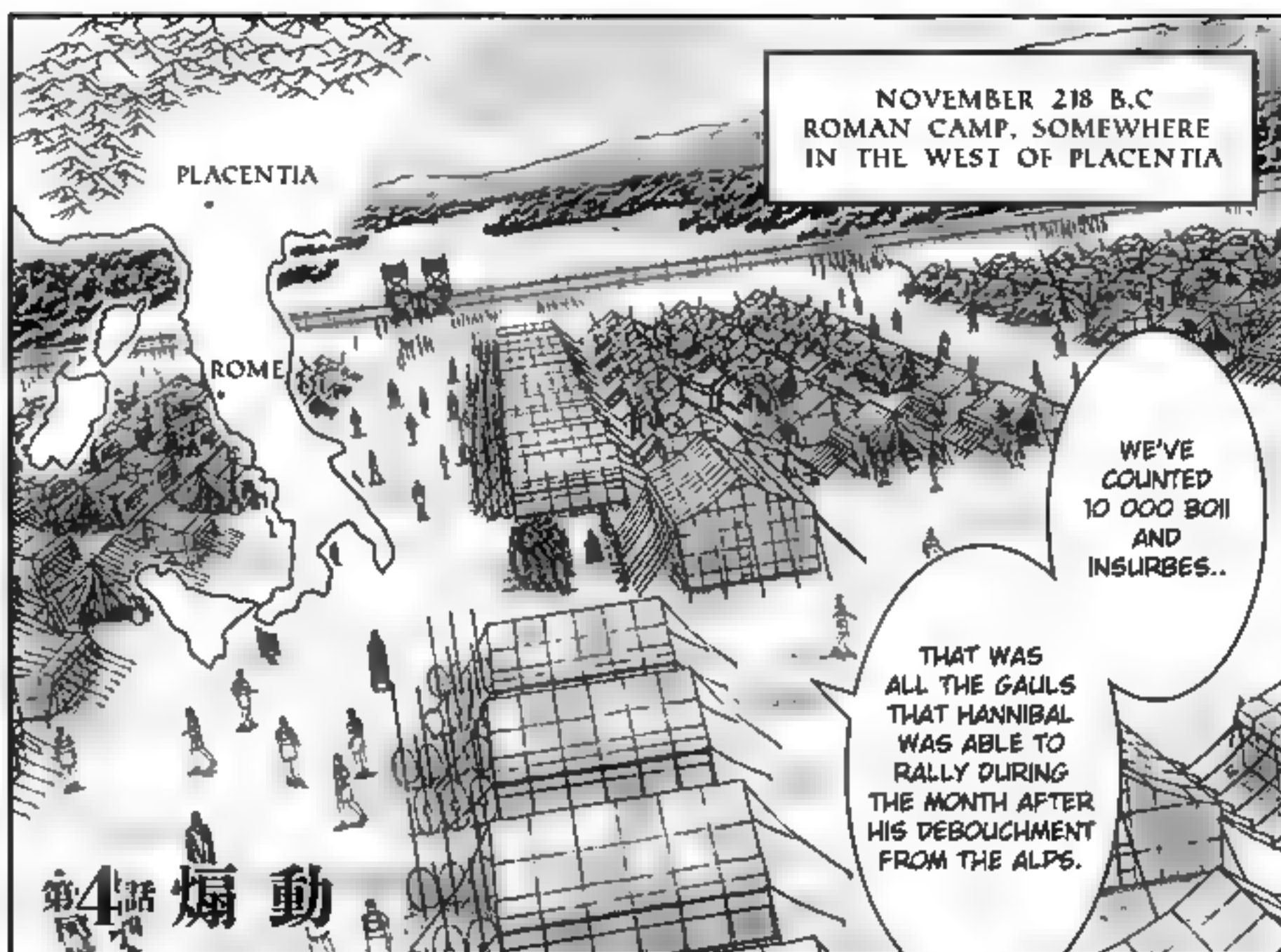
Hannibal now attempted to cross the Rhone, unaware that Scipio's army was less than five days' march away. Hannibal found himself in the territory of the Volcae, a powerful people with settlements on both banks of the river who distrusted the Carthaginians and tried to prevent Hannibal's crossing. Hannibal realized that he could not make a successful crossing against such a large force. Under cover of night, he sent local guides and a force of Spanish cavalry under Hanno, son of Bomilcar, twenty five miles upstream. There, the river split in two streams divided by an island and was easier to cross. Hanno and his cavalry fashioned rafts from local timber, crossed the river, and took up concealed positions on the riverbank. Hanno rested his troops for a day before starting his night march back to the same riverbank occupied by the Volcaen Gauls.

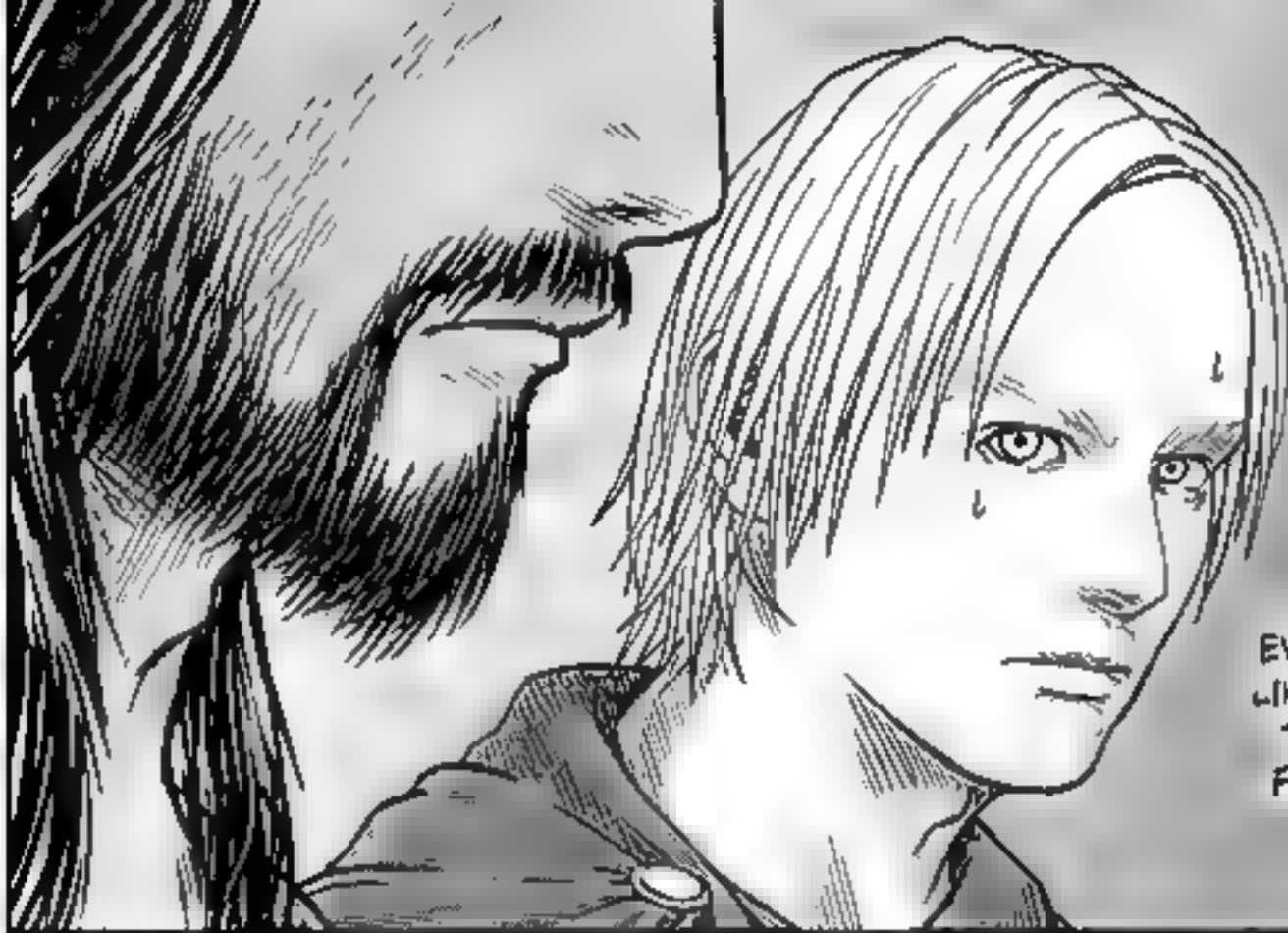
At daybreak, by means of a prearranged smoke signal, Hannibal saw that Hanno was in position to attack the Volcae. He ordered his Spanish cavalry upstream. Each horseman towed three or four horses behind him, breaking the current so that Hannibal's canoes, which carried his light infantry, could cross. The first waves of boat-borne infantry caught the Volcae by surprise and established a beachhead on the opposite bank. The Gauls, now awake, poured out of their encampment to repel the attack only to be taken in the flank by Hanno's cavalry emerging from its concealment. The Gauls broke and ran with Hanno on their heels, driving them as far as possible from the riverbank. Hannibal now began moving the rest of his army across, and by nightfall, the sixth day after his arrival at the Rhone, all but the elephants were safely on the opposite bank.³⁰

It was not until the next day that Hannibal learned that Scipio's fleet had arrived at Massilia and that a Roman reconnaissance force was making its way toward him. He immediately dispatched five hundred Numidian cavalry downstream to reconnoiter. In the meantime, Hannibal began moving his elephants across the river. It was then that a delegation of Gallic chiefs from the Po Valley led by Magilos arrived. Both Polybius and Livy tell of an assembly where Hannibal introduced the chiefs to his troops in an effort to boost the men's morale and allay their fears of crossing the Alps. Livy says that Hannibal himself addressed these fears by pointing to Magilos and his men and asking, "How do you think these envoys got here—on wings?"³¹

Hannibal: The Military Biography of Rome's Greatest Enemy
By Richard A. Gabriel

**VISIT OUR BLOG AND CHEER US ON
SO WE CAN KEEP GOING THANK YOU
[HTTP://MANGASYNDROME.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://MANGASYNDROME.BLOGSPOT.COM)**





IF THIS MAN'S TELLING
THE TRUTH, THEN
HANNIBAL MADE A BAD
MISTAKE AFTER ALL.

EVEN FOR A GENIUS STRATEGIST
LIKE HIMSELF, READING THROUGH
THE GALLS' HEARTS FROM AS
FAR AS HISPANIA HAS BEEN AN
IMPOSSIBLE BET TO WIN.



I WASN'T
EXPECTING
SUCH A TURN
LOOKS OF SITUATION!
LIKE THE
GODS ARE
TURNING TO
OUR SIDE.



THE CARTHAGINIANS
COUNT 30 000, 40
000 AT BEST... WE
STILL OUTNUMBER
THEM NO MATTER
HOW TALENTED THEY
ARE, NO GENERAL
CAN DEFEAT US IN
THESE CONDITIONS!



IN ANY CASE,
THE HYPOTHESIS
OF FACING A
UNITED ARMY
IS OUT OF THE
PICTURE NOW...

**WILL WIN
THIS WAR!**

ROME

ad astra episode 004

EPISODE 4



AGITATION





I OUGHT
TO KNOW THAT
ROME'S POWER
SURPASSES
MINE...



PRIDE
NEVER
HELPED
ANYONE
TO STAY
ALIVE.

MANY PEOPLE
DIED BECAUSE
THEY WERE
ATTACHED TO
THEIR
PRINCIPLES.

ANYONE
WHO WANTS
TO SURVIVE
WOULD TAKE
THE SAME
CHOICE AS
YOU.

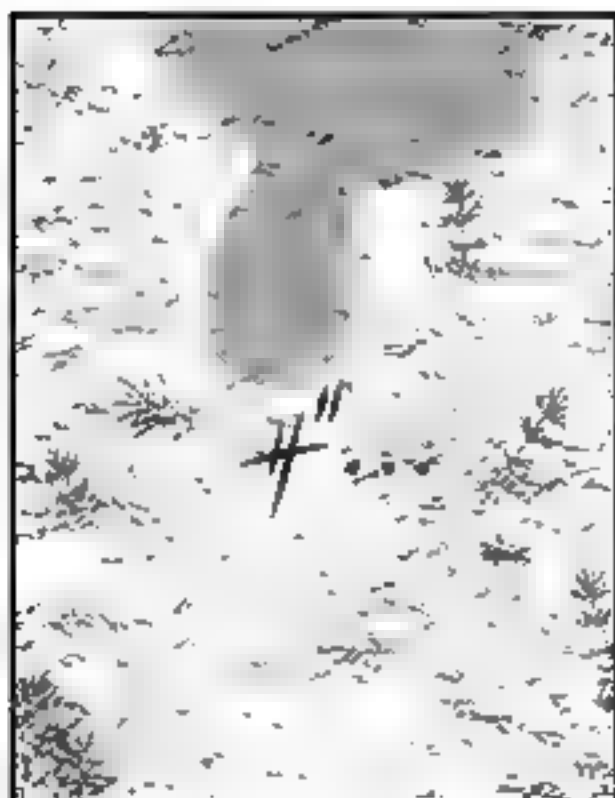


BUT AMONG MY PEOPLE,
THERE ARE MANY WHOM
THEIR PRIDE PREVENTS
THEM FROM STOOPING
TO SERVE OLD ENEMIES
NO MATTER HOW STRONG
THOSE ENEMIES ARE.

THEY'RE TORN
BETWEEN THEIR
VALUES AND
REALITY.



I LEARNED THAT
THE HARD WAY
DURING THE LAST
WAR... THAT'S
WHY I'VE DECIDED
TO COME TO YOU
...



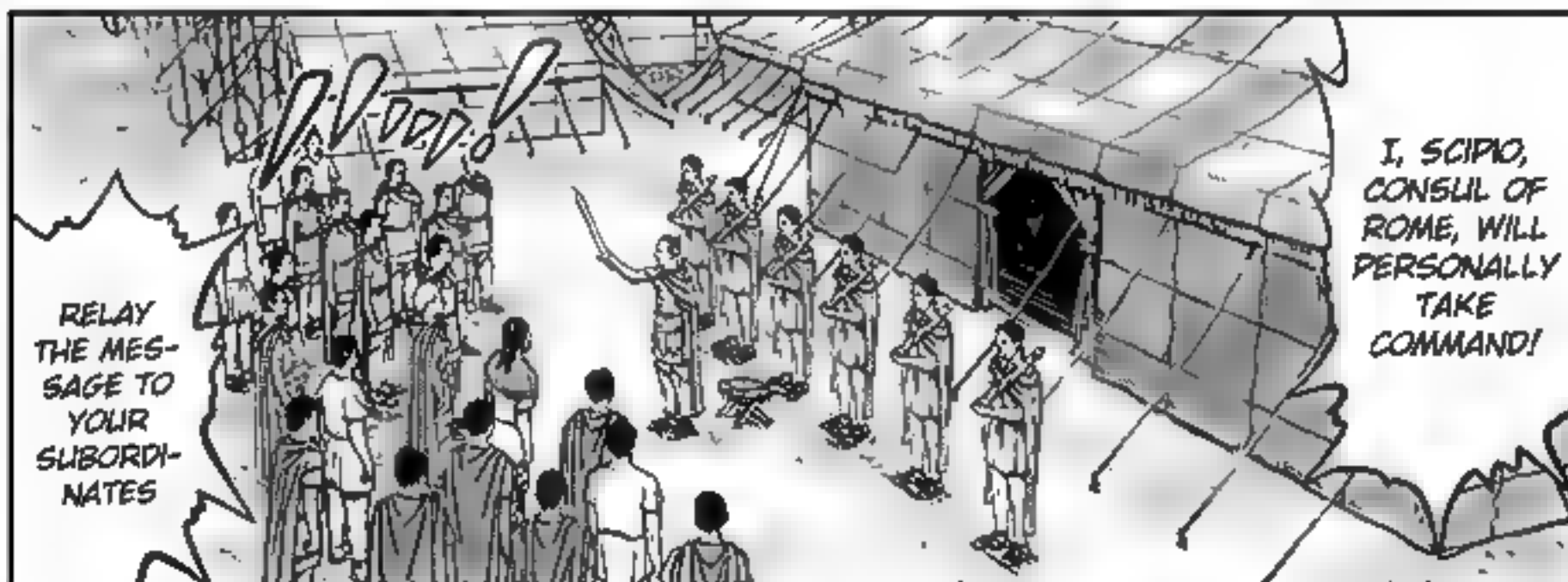
THE IRREFUTABLE
POWER OF ROME!

THEN THIS IS A
GOOD TIME TO
PROVE TO ALL
THE GAULS WHO
ARE RELUCTANT
TO JOIN HANNIBAL



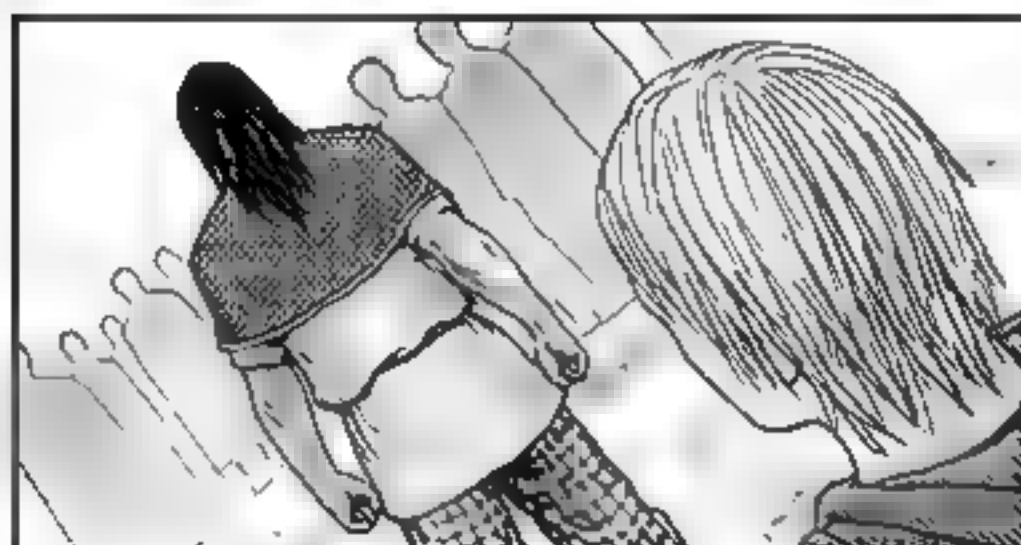
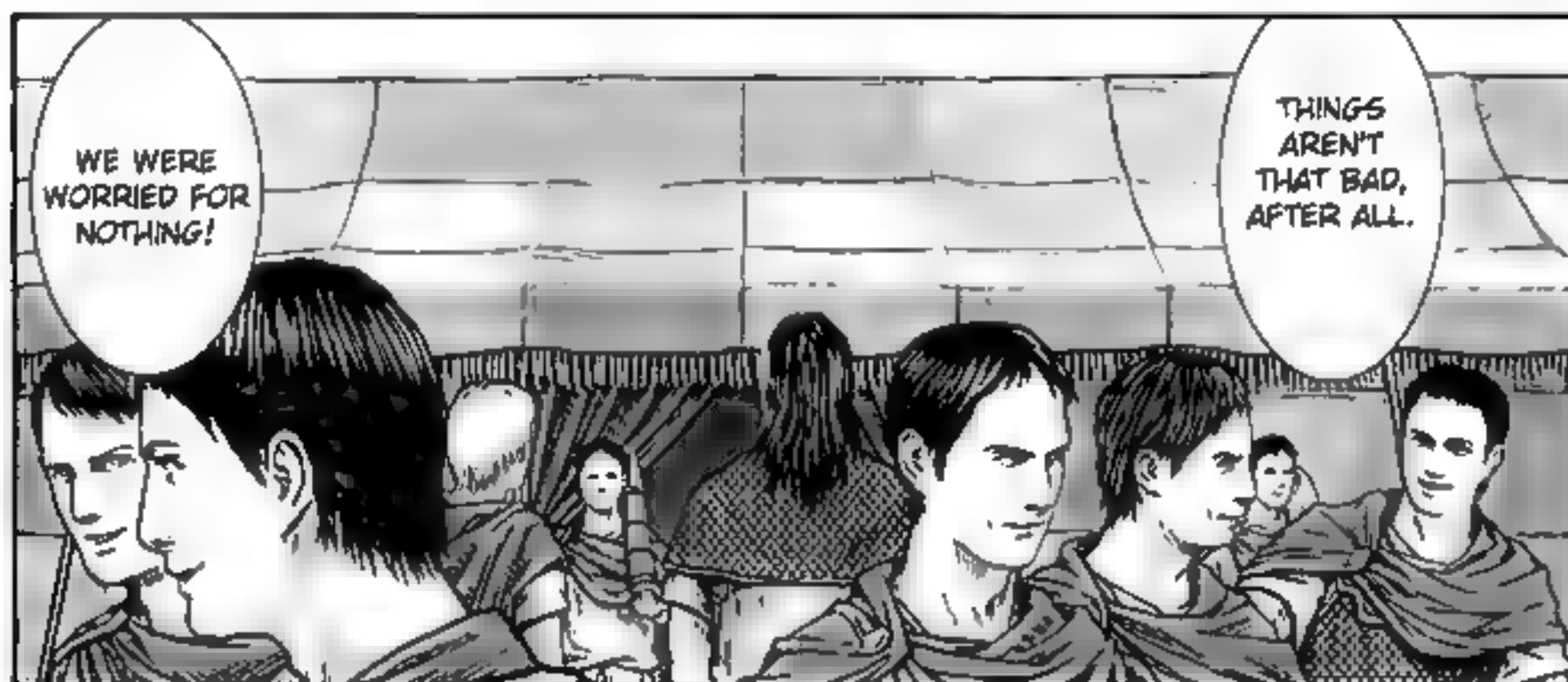
A BATTALION
OF 4000 MEN,
CAVALRIES
AND LANCERS
MUST BE
READY FOR
THIS MISSION!

TOMORROW
AT DAWN,
WE LEAVE
FOR A RECON
EXPEDITION!



RELAY
THE MES-
SAGE TO
YOUR SUBORDI-
NATES

I, SCIPIO,
CONSUL OF
ROME, WILL
PERSONALLY
TAKE
COMMAND!







OTHERS WILL
DEFINITELY
RECOGNIZE AND
FOLLOW HIM.

HANNIBAL BARCA
IS ABSOLUTELY
AN EXCEPTIONAL
GENERAL.



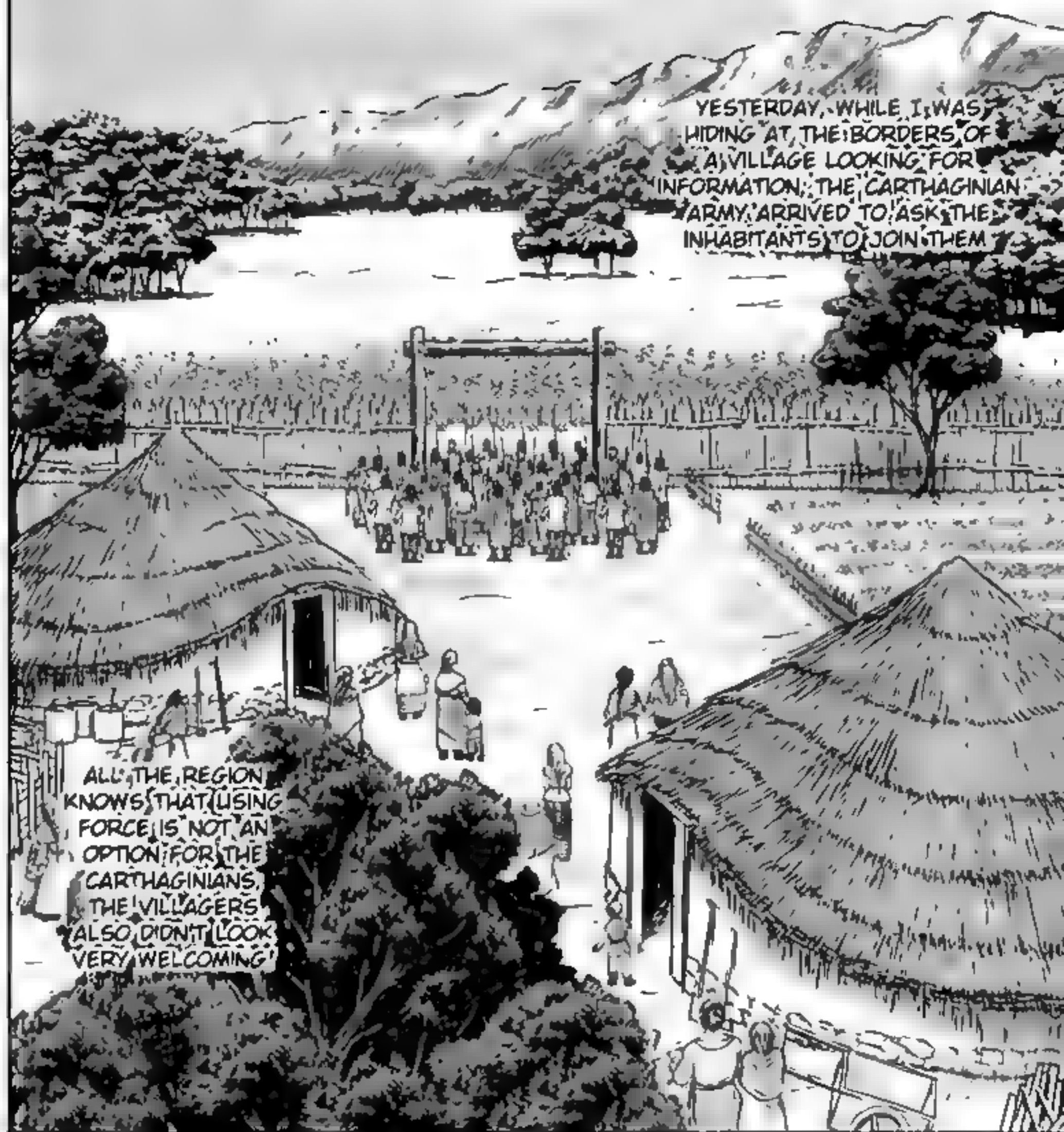
BUT I'VE SEEN
THE SIGHT OF
HANNIBAL TAKING
THE GIANT ROME
DOWN!



IT GOES
WITHOUT
SAYING THAT
ROME IS MORE
POWERFUL IN
TERMS OF
OFFENSIVE

I AM
PERFECTLY
CONSCIOUS

AND I
KNOW
THIS IS
STUPID



YESTERDAY, WHILE I WAS HIDING AT THE BORDERS OF A VILLAGE LOOKING FOR INFORMATION, THE CARTHAGINIAN ARMY ARRIVED TO ASK THE INHABITANTS TO JOIN THEM.

ALL THE REGION KNOWS THAT USING FORCE IS NOT AN OPTION FOR THE CARTHAGINIANS. THE VILLAGERS ALSO DIDN'T LOOK VERY WELCOMING.



HANNIBAL'S MEN SEEMED TOO TIRED.





ALL OF US HERE
IMAGINED THE FEARED
ARMY OF CARTHAGE,
THIRSTY FOR REVENGE,
SPREADING TERROR
AROUND ROME!

WE HOPED
THAT YOU WOULD
GIVE US THE
OPPORTUNITY TO
HUNT DOWN THE
ROMANS THAT WE
HATE SO MUCH...



WHO WERE
ALSO INFERIOR
IN NUMBERS.

AND NOW,
WHAT DO
WE GET?!

A BUNCH OF
MERCENARIES WHO
WERE DEFEATED IN
FRONT OF MASSILIA BY
A HANDFUL OF NOBLES
ON HORSES



I KNOW HOW
MUCH THE VOYAGE
THROUGH THOSE
MOUNTAINS IS HARSH

HOW MANY
LOSSES WERE
THERE BETWEEN
WINTER'S HARSH
COLDNESS AND
LOCAL TRIBES'
ASSAULTS WHOSE
LANGUAGE YOU
DON'T EVEN
KNOW?

BUT THAT'S
STILL NOTHING
COMPARED TO
WHAT YOU HAVE
TO ENDURE IN
ORDER TO DEFEAT
ROME.



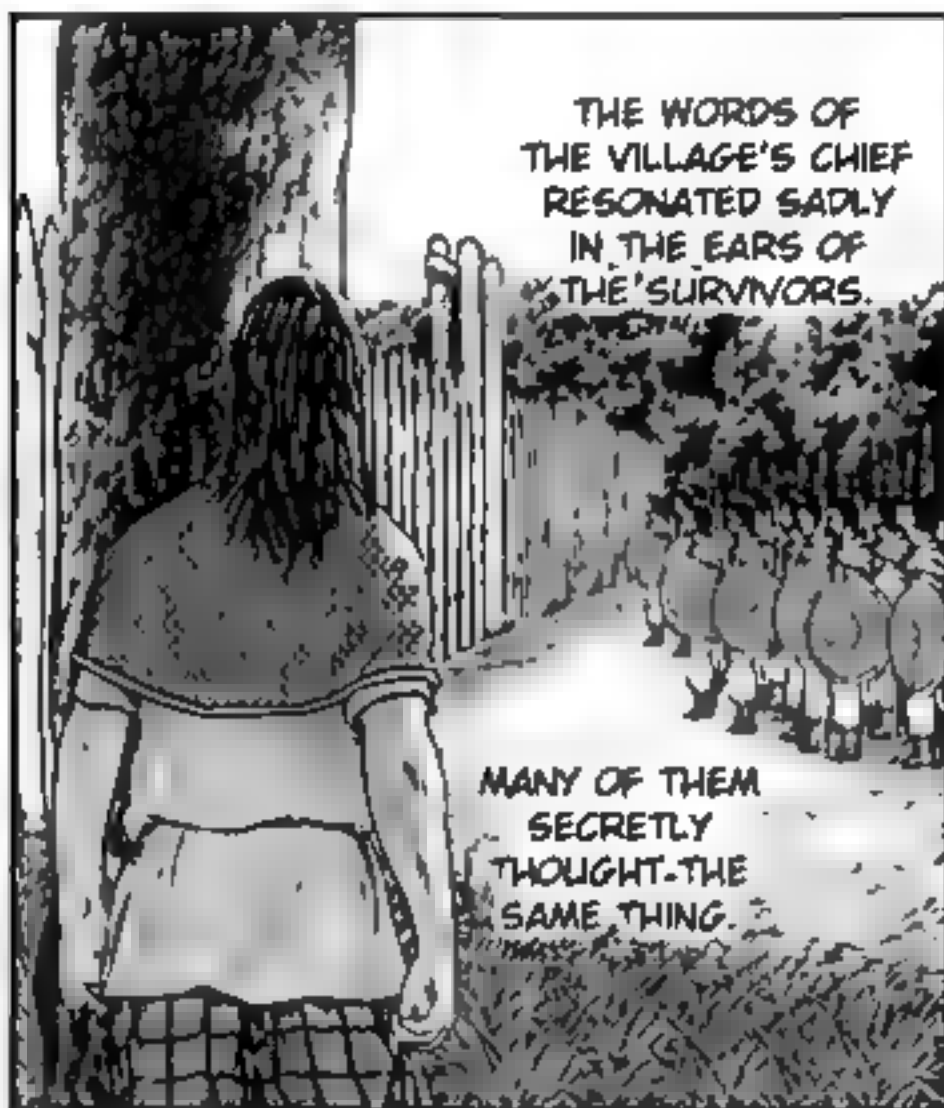
TELL ME.

HOW MANY
OF YOU DIED
IN THE ALPS?



HAS ANY
CHANCE OF
DEFEATING
ROME?

DO YOU
REALLY BELIEVE
THAT A TROOP
LOST THIS
MANY SOLDIERS

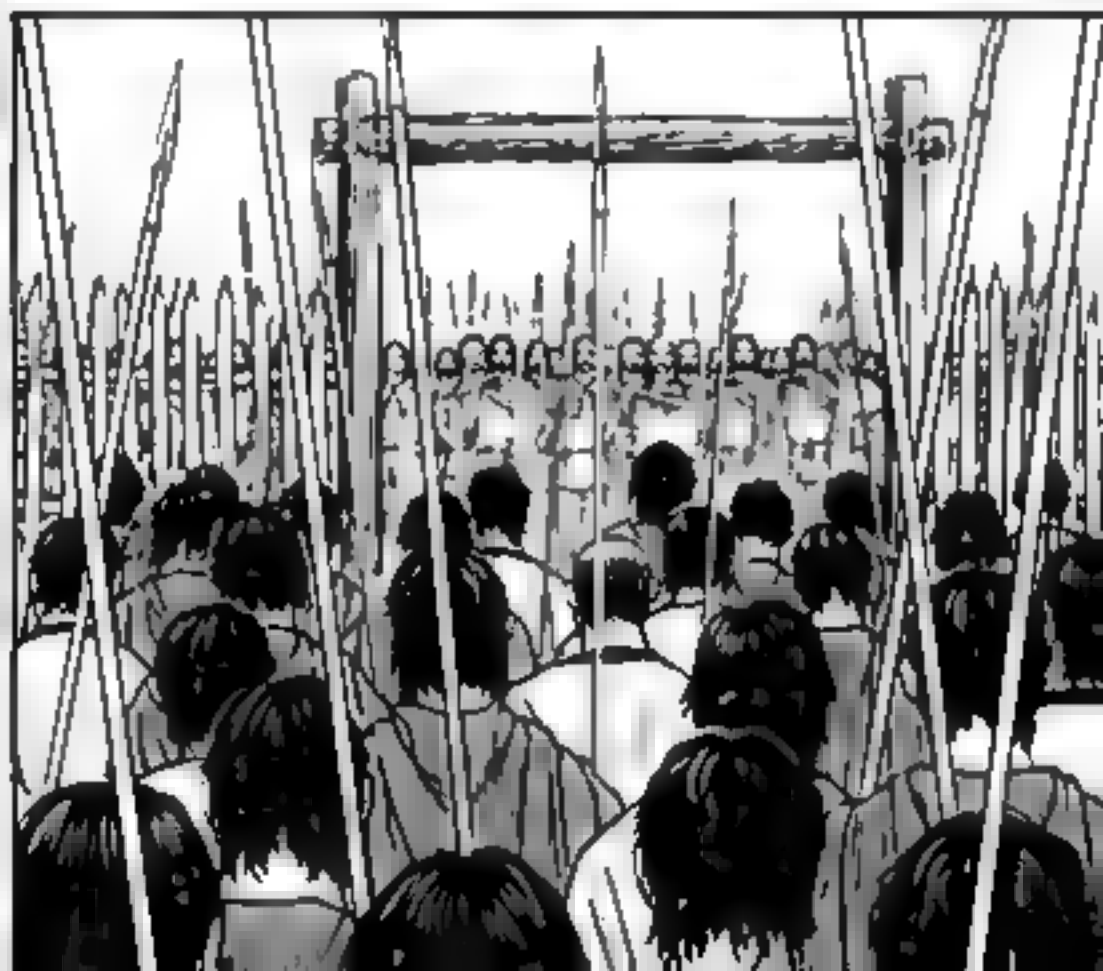


THE WORDS OF
THE VILLAGE'S CHIEF
RESONATED SADLY
IN THE EARS OF
THE SURVIVORS.

MANY OF THEM
SECRETLY
THOUGHT THE
SAME THING.



AT THAT
INSTANT, A
MAN'S VOICE
BROKE THE
SILENCE





GAUL, THERE'S
SOMETHING I
WANT TO SHOW
YOU.

IT WAS
HANNIBAL'S!



YES...



...?
!?



MAGO,
BRING
THE GAUL
PRISONERS,
THE ONES
WE'VE
CAPTURED
IN THE
MOUNTAIN
CLIFFS.



HERE
THEY
ARE...

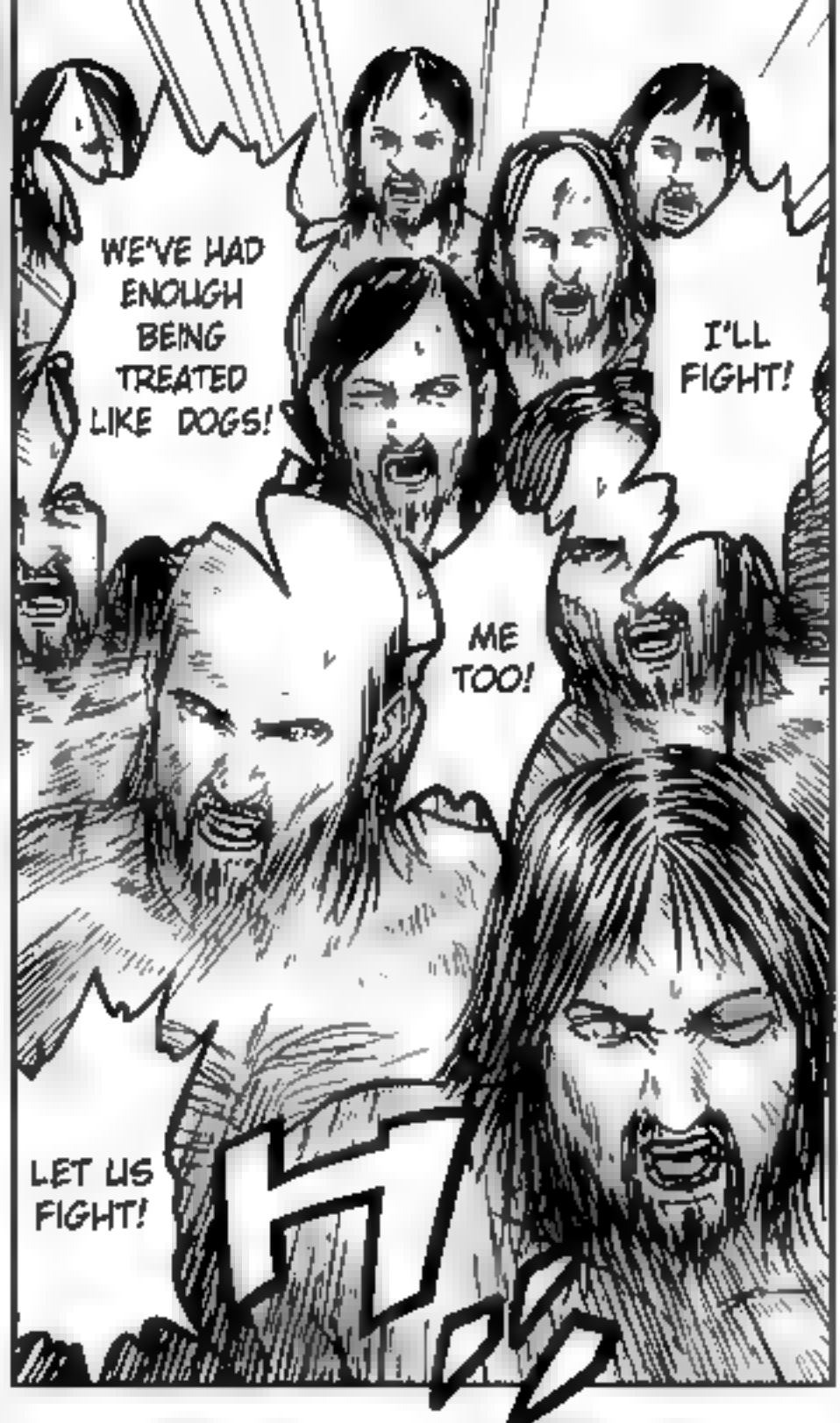


VERY WELL.

LET'S SEE...
YOU AND YOU.



WHAT'S THE
POINT OF THIS?

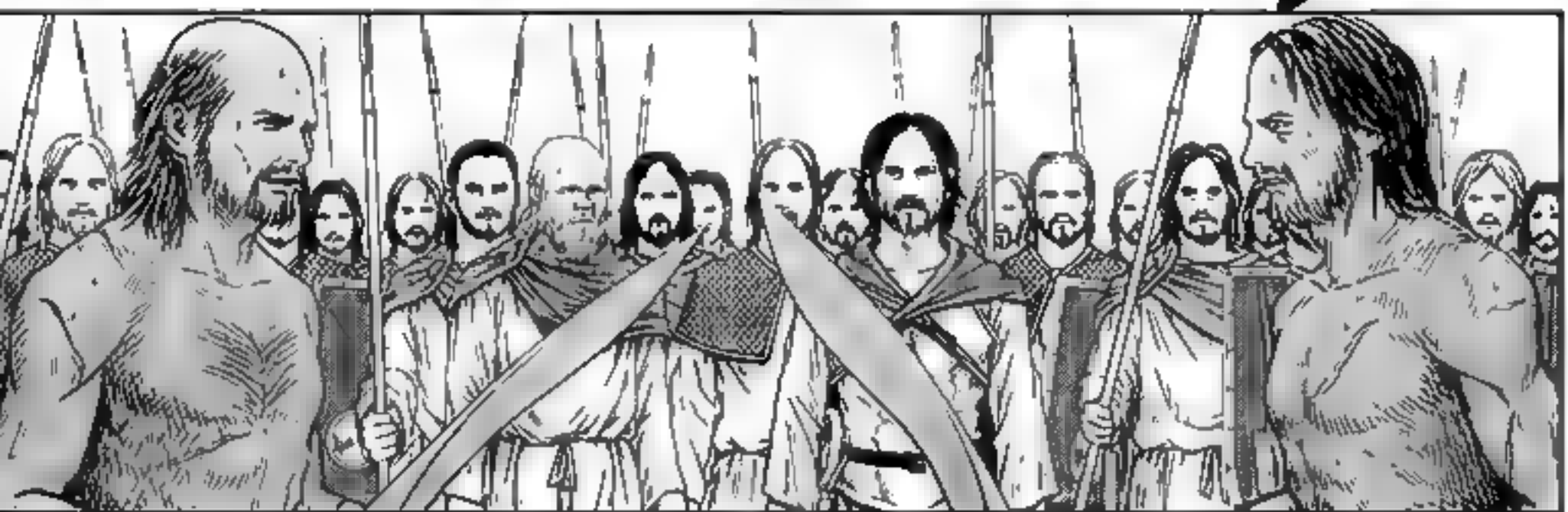


WE'VE HAD
ENOUGH
BEING
TREATED
LIKE DOGS!

I'LL
FIGHT!

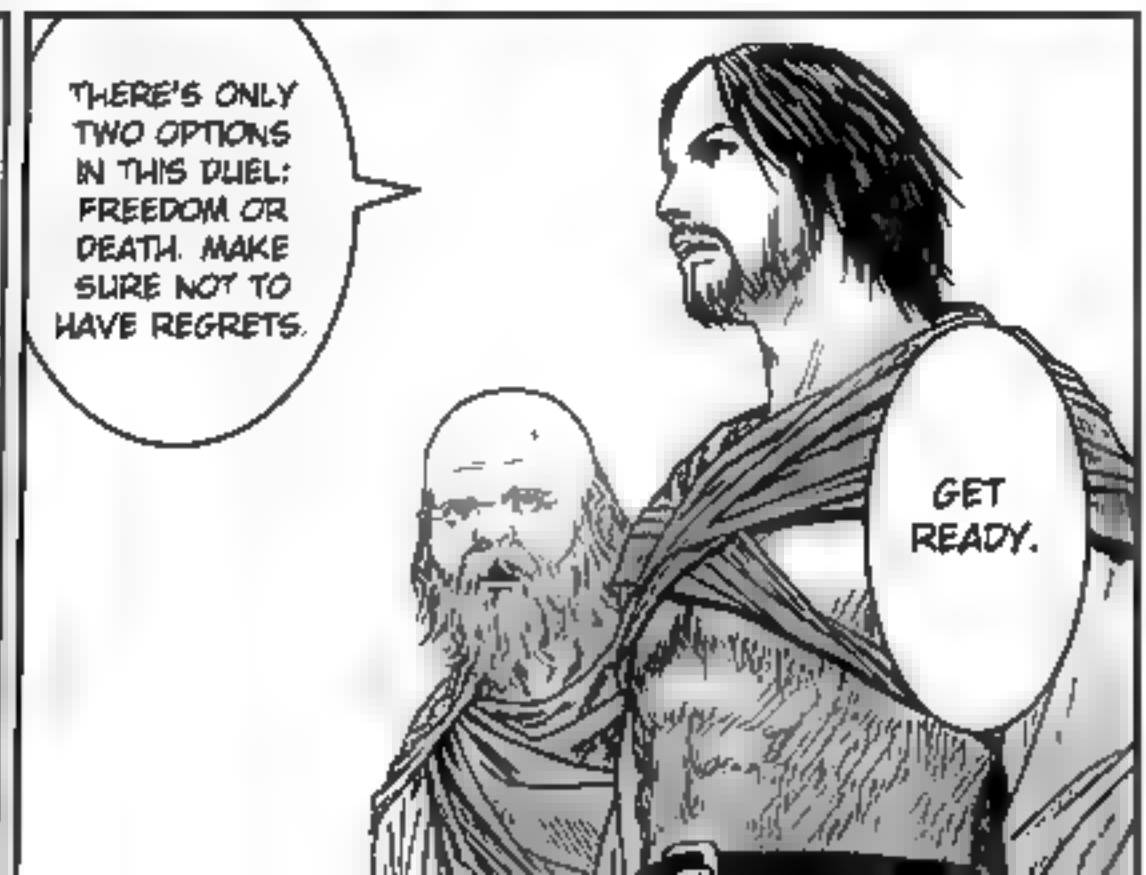
ME
TOO!

LET US
FIGHT!



WHAT A STRANGE
MAN! WHAT IS HE
TRYING TO PROVE?

THERE'S ONLY
TWO OPTIONS
IN THIS DUEL:
FREEDOM OR
DEATH. MAKE
SURE NOT TO
HAVE REGRETS.



GET
READY.



IT PROBABLY SEEMS THAT WAY TO YOUR TIRED EYES, ELDER,

I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS DULL SHOW!

YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.



KILL HIM!



BUT LOOK AT MY WARRIORS.



SO WHAT? WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH US?

AS IF THEY'RE TRYING TO LET OUT ALL THE ACCUMULATED FRUSTRATION FROM INSIDE!

THE FIGHT BARELY STARTED AND THEY'RE ALREADY FIRED UP

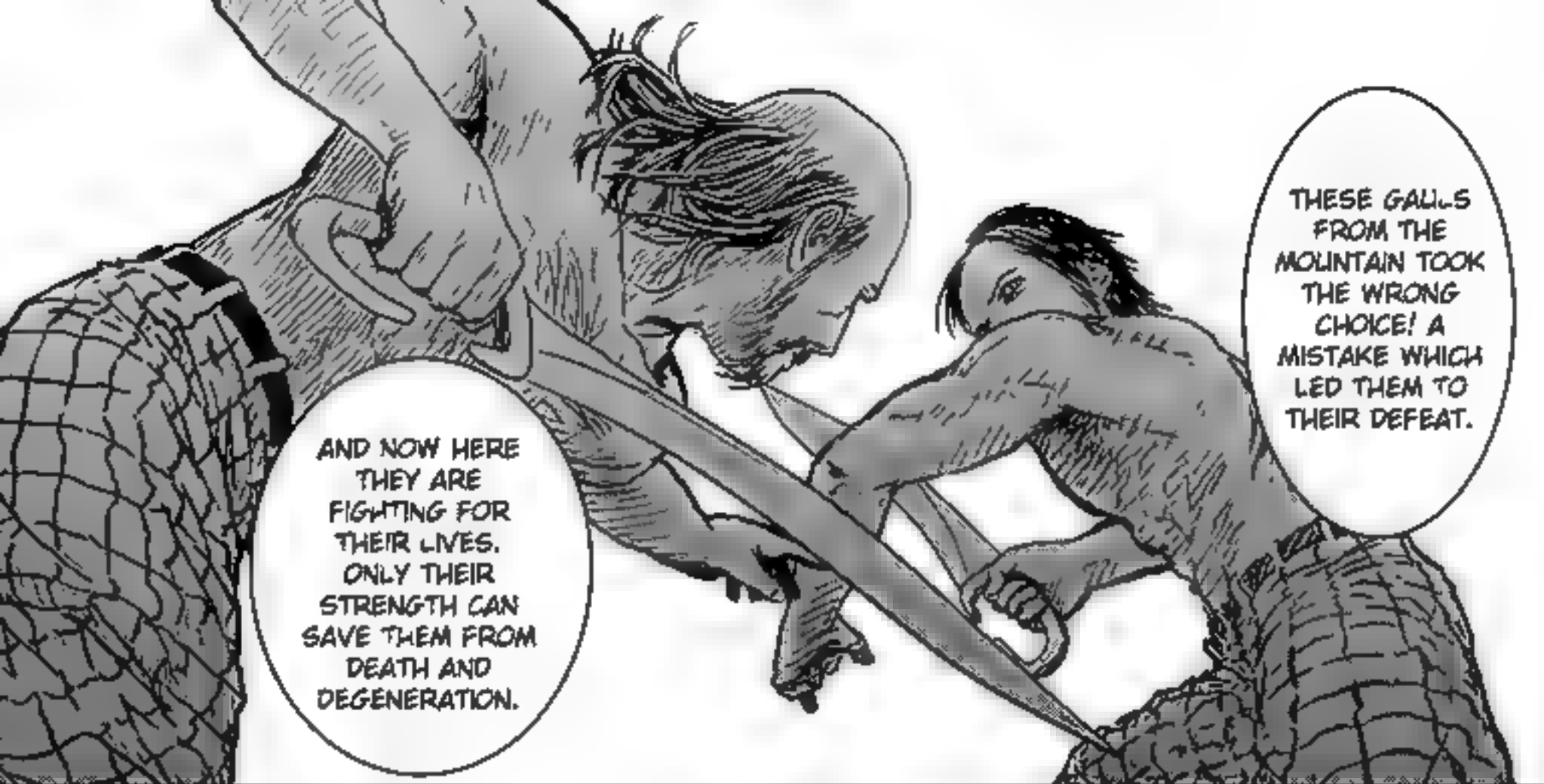


GO FOR IT!

YES, NICE MOVE!



LOOK AT YOUR MEN AND YOU'LL UNDERSTAND.



AND NOW HERE
THEY ARE
FIGHTING FOR
THEIR LIVES.
ONLY THEIR
STRENGTH CAN
SAVE THEM FROM
DEATH AND
DEGENERATION.

THESE GALLS
FROM THE
MOUNTAIN TOOK
THE WRONG
CHOICE! A
MISTAKE WHICH
LED THEM TO
THEIR DEFEAT.



THAT LIFE
WITHOUT PRIDE
IS NOT WORTH
LIVING.

IT WAS ONLY
WHEN THEY WERE
DEPRIVED FROM
THEIR FREEDOM
THAT THEY FINALLY
REALIZED

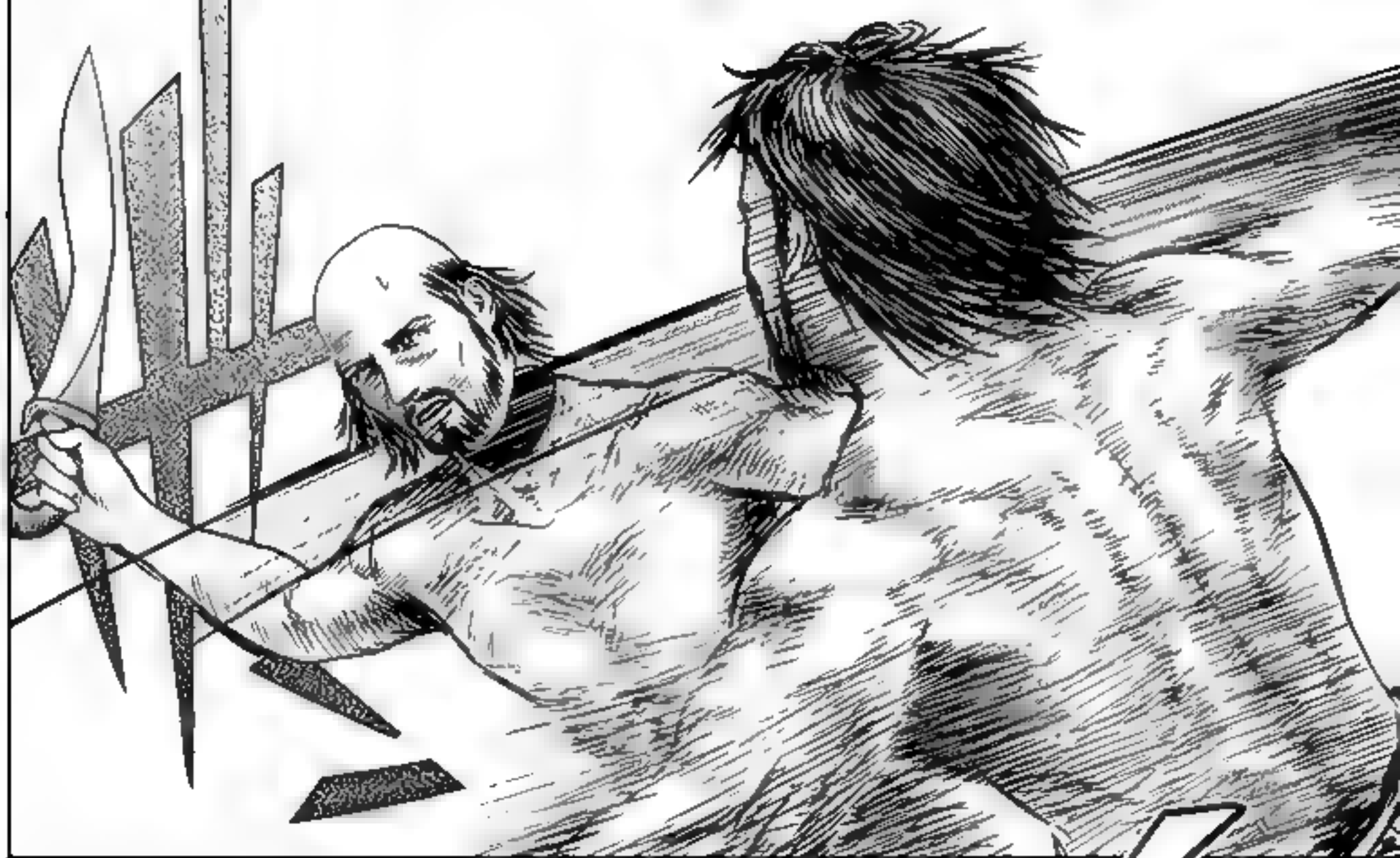


HAAA
AAAA!

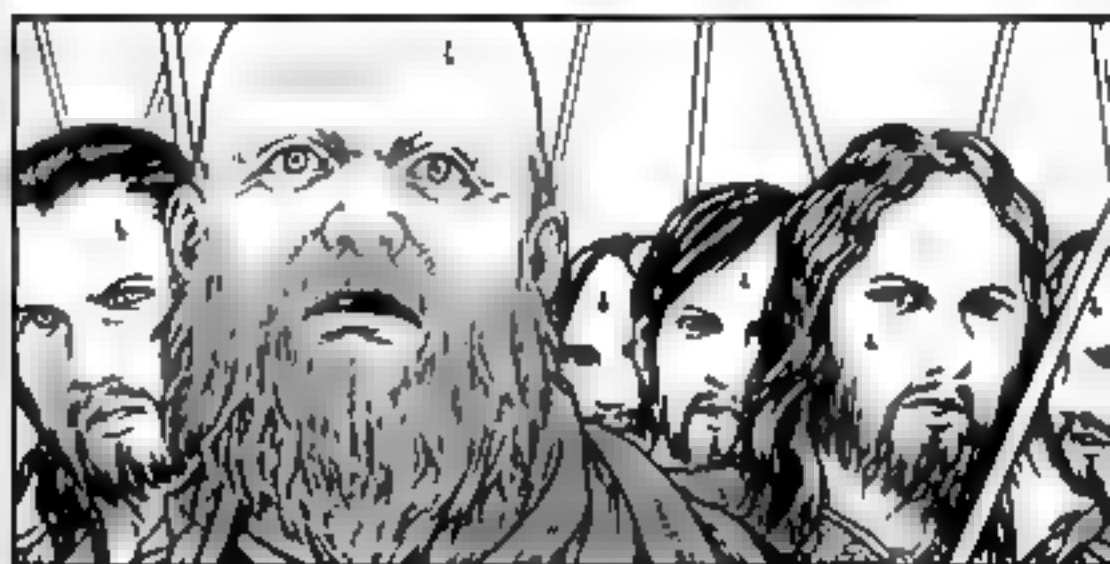


I SEE...









FOR THE
SOULS OF OUR
DEAD COMRADES
IN THE ALPS

I HAD
HOPED THAT
YOU WOULD
HOLD MORE RESPECT



WHO DIED
UNDER THE
SPEARS AND
SWORDS OF
THE ROMAN
LEGIONS.

AND FOR
THE SOULS
OF YOUR
GALLIC
BROTHERS



YOU CELEBRATE
THE WINNER BUT
YOU FORGET THAT
THE SPIRIT OF THE
DEFEATED EQUALLY
DESERVES YOUR
PRAISE!



YEAH...
LET'S LEAVE
IT TO HIM.

I'M NOT
USED TO
SEEING MY
BROTHER
THIS
ELOQUENT...

DO YOU
THINK...



DON'T YOU
THINK THAT
A WARRIOR
WORTHY OF
BEING ONE

SHOULD
SHOW HIS
RESPECT WHEN
ONE OF HIS
PEERS DIES
PROTECTING
HIS PRIDE?



ARE YOU
SURE?

WHY ALL THESE
INSULTS?!
WE ONLY
CONGRATULATED
THE WINNER!



UNCONSCIOUSLY,
WASN'T IT RATHER
AN EXCUSE TO LOOK
AWAY FROM THE
TERROR THAT DEATH
INSTILLS IN YOU?

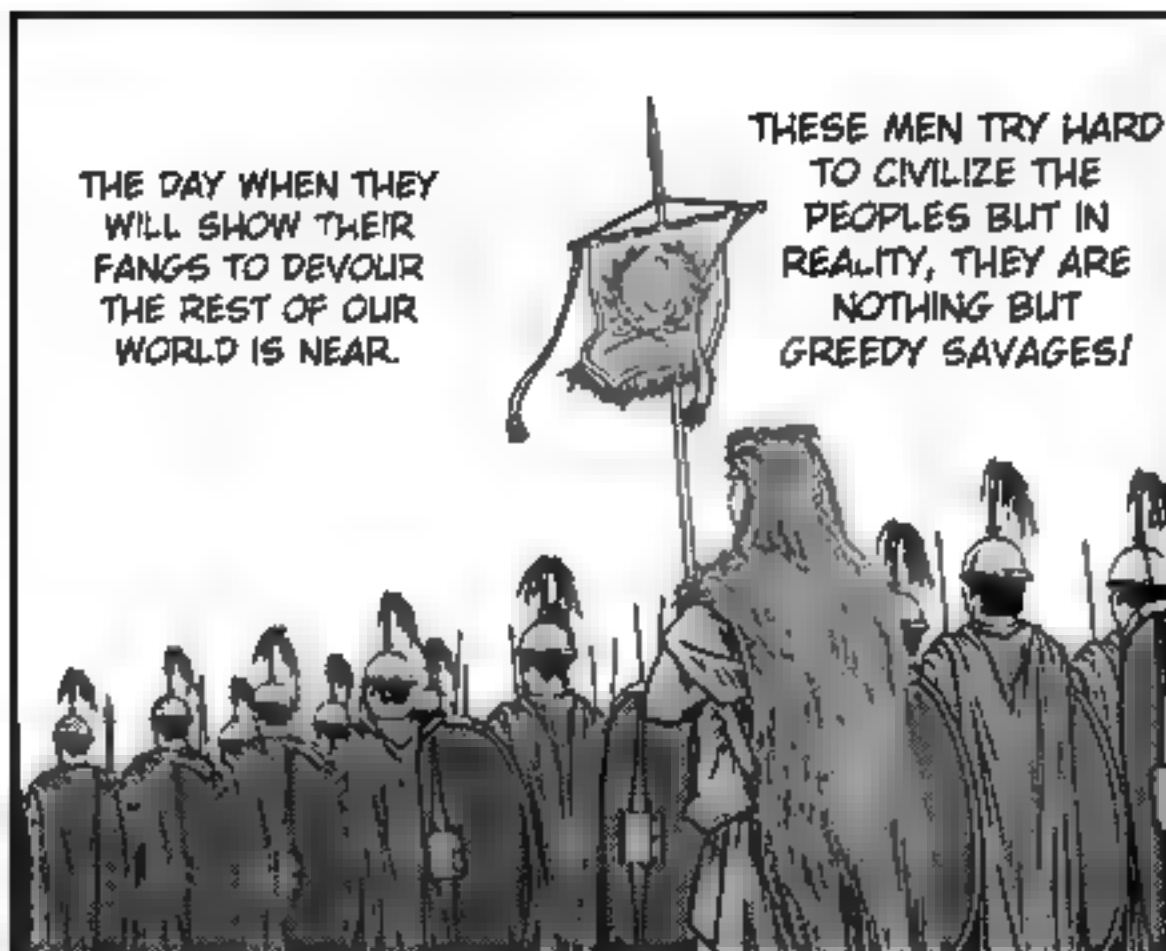
PROVE ME WRONG
AND SET STRAIGHT
THIS HEAD ON THE
GROUND!



IN THE
SITUATION
THAT WE
ARE CLOSED
IN.

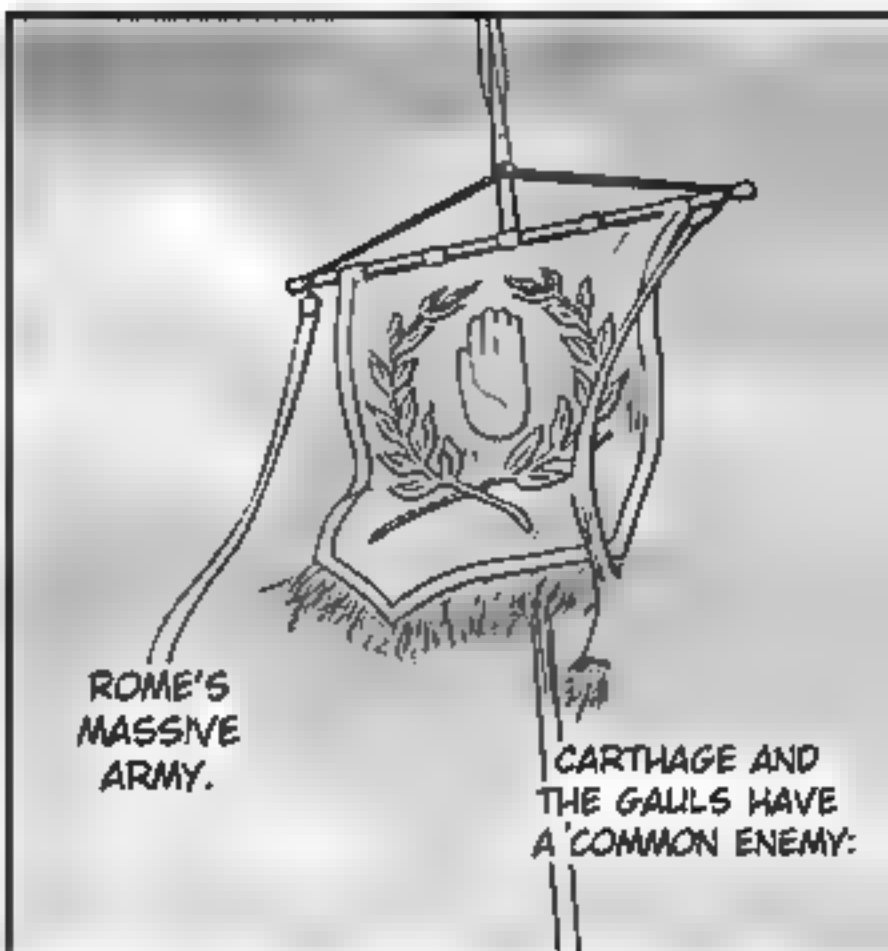
IT WAS
THE RE-
FLECTION
OF EACH
OF US

THIS DUEL
WAS MORE
THAN JUST
A SHOW,



THE DAY WHEN THEY
WILL SHOW THEIR
FANGS TO DEVOUR
THE REST OF OUR
WORLD IS NEAR.

THESE MEN TRY HARD
TO CIVILIZE THE
PEOPLES BUT IN
REALITY, THEY ARE
NOTHING BUT
GREEDY SAVAGES!



ROME'S
MASSIVE
ARMY.

CARTHAGE AND
THE GAULS HAVE
A COMMON ENEMY:



FIGHT BRAVELY
AND WIN,

RESIST AND DIE
WITH HONOR,

OR RUN AWAY AND
ACCEPT TO LIVE AS
PRISONERS FOR THE
REST OF OUR LIVES.




NOW WE
HAVE THREE
PATHS TO
CHOOSE
FROM...



HOWEVER,
YOU HAVE
FOUND COMFORT
IN FLEEING AND
HAVE CHOSEN TO
THROW YOUR
DIGNITY LIKE FOOD
TO THE DOGS.

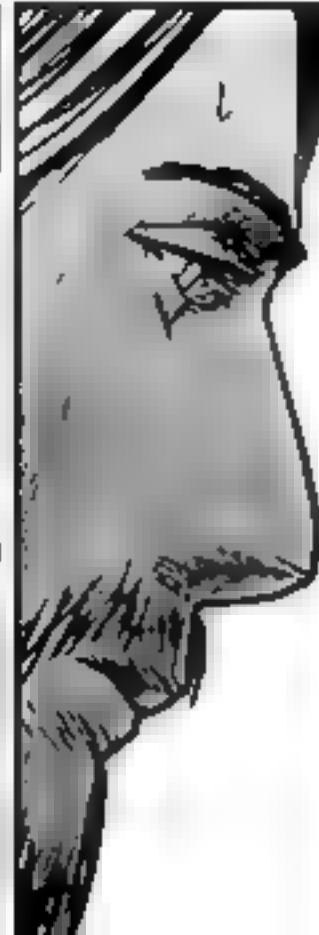
WHILE YOU'RE
EMPRISONED
BEHIND THE
BARS OF YOUR
COWARDICE,
MAY YOU DROOL
OF REGRET AND
ENVY WHEN
WE'RE COVERED
IN GLORY!

WE, THE
CARTHAGINIANS,
CHOSE TO WALK
THROUGH AS MANY
CORPSES AS
NECESSARY TO
ENSURE OUR
VICTORY.



WE CAN'T
LET THIS
GO JUST
LIKE THAT!

THIS MAN'S
BESMIRCHING
MY HONOR!





NOT FOR
YOU BUT
FOR THE
HONOR OF
MY PEOPLE!

NOW THAT
IT CAME TO
THIS, I WILL
FIGHT!

WE'LL
KILL THEM
ALL!

WE'LL
FIGHT
THOSE
ROMANS!

WHAT?

YEAH,
FOR THE
HONOR OF
OUR GAUL
WARRIORS!

WAIT! DON'T
GET CARRIED
AWAY!



HE CAN
PLAY AS HE
PLEASES WITH
PEOPLE'S
HEARTS!



YOU KNOW,
MAGO, AT
THE AGE OF
NINE

HANNIBAL
HAS RECEIVED
A POWER
FROM THE
HEAVENS;

.....!
!?

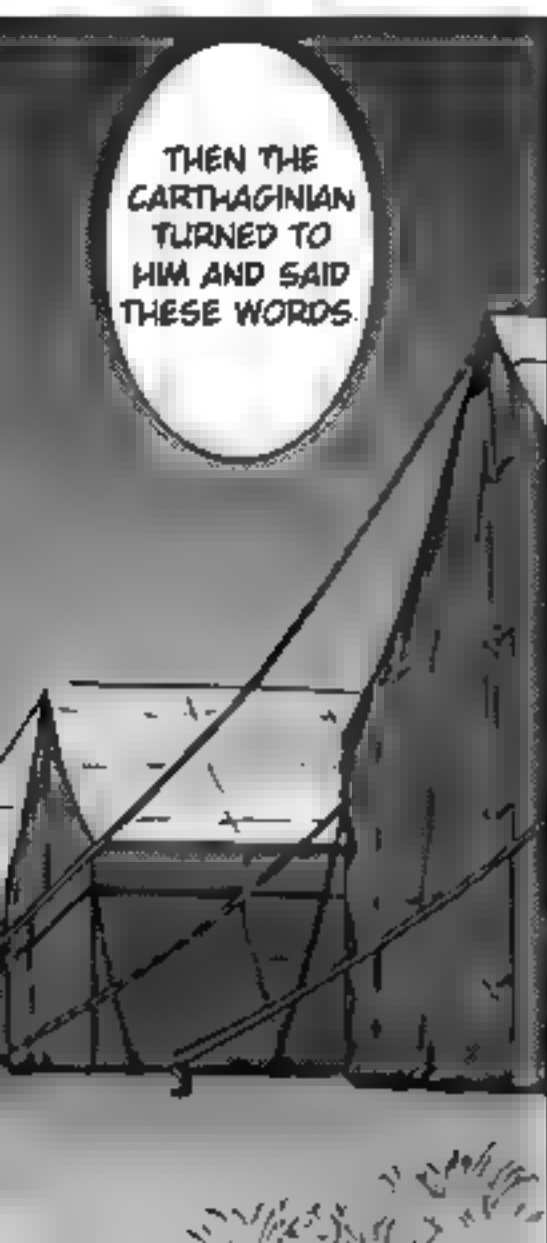
SO DOES
THIS MEAN
THEY ACCEPT
OUR ALLIANCE
PROPOSAL?



WITH HIS
WORDS, HE
MANIPULATED
AND ATTRACTED
TO HIM THE
YOUNG MEN
OF THIS
VILLAGE

AS EASILY
AS A FATHER
WHO GUIDES
HIS SON BY
THE HAND.

HE WAS LIKE
A SORCERER
WHO'S ABLE
TO COMMAND
THE SPIRITS!



THEN THE
CARTHAGINIAN
TURNED TO
HIM AND SAID
THESE WORDS.

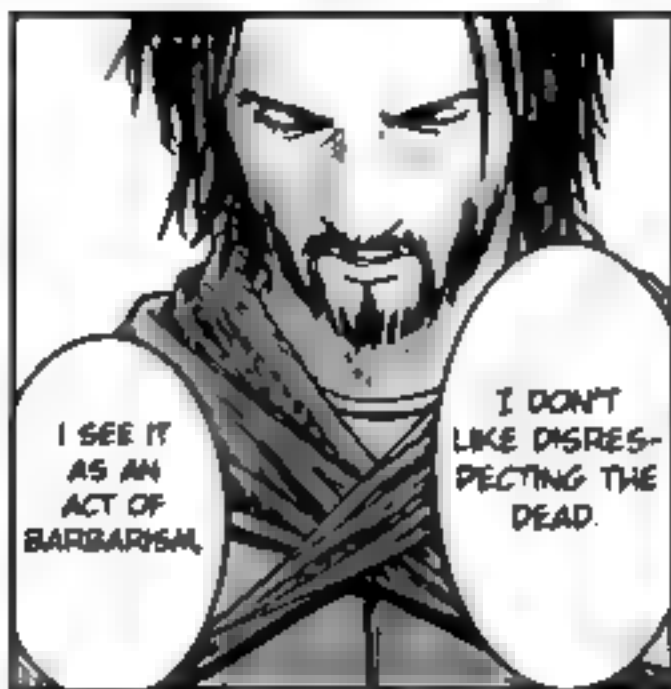


AND TO CONVINCE
THEM THAT NO
ONE KNOWS WHAT
HANNIBAL MAY
TURN OUT TO BE
ON THE BATTLE-
FIELD!



HOWEVER,
THE VILLAGE
CHIEF HAD
TO PROTECT
HIS MEN

SO HE TRIED
WITH ALL HIS
MIGHT TO
BRING THEM
BACK TO
REASON



ad astra

PUBLIUS CORNELIUS SCIPIO AFRICANUS TO HANNIBAL BARCA

CREATED BY MIHACHI KAGANO

HISTORICAL NOTES

* * *

EPISODE 04: AGITATION

HANNIBAL ENCOURAGING HIS MEN

In Polybius and Livy's accounts, the scene when Hannibal called for the prisoners to fight and his following speech was his encouragement act before the upcoming battle (Battle of Ticinus), NOT his attempt to rally the Gauls which is the case in the manga. I personally do like the mangaka's interpretation though. And it actually might be the case. I did not read all the literature on this but Polybius and Livy are the most reliable sources on the Punic wars.

(Scipio also made a speech addressed to his army before the battle. I'll include that in the Historical Notes of the next two chapters which will cover the Battle of Ticinus.)

The following extract is taken from Polybius' Histories.

The manner in which Hannibal tried to encourage his army was this. He mustered the men, and caused some youthful prisoners whom he had caught when they were attempting to hinder his march on the Alpine passes, to be brought forward. They had been subjected to great severities with this very object, loaded with heavy chains, half-starved, and their bodies a mass of bruises from scourging. Hannibal caused these men to be placed in the middle of the army, and some suits of Gallic armour, such as are worn by their kings when they fight in single combat, to be exhibited; in addition to these he placed there some horses, and brought in some valuable military cloaks. He then asked these young prisoners, which of them were willing to fight with each other on condition of the conqueror taking these prizes, and the vanquished escaping all his present miseries by death. Upon their all answering with a loud shout that they were desirous of fighting in these single combats, he bade them draw lots; and the pair, on whom the first lot fell, to put on the armour and fight with each other. As soon as the young men heard these orders, they lifted up their hands, and each prayed the gods that he might be one of those to draw the lot. And when the lots were drawn, those on whom they fell were overjoyed, and the others in despair. When the fight was finished, too, the surviving captives congratulated the one who had fallen no less than the victor, as having been freed from many terrible

sufferings, while they themselves still remained to endure them. And in this feeling the Carthaginian soldiers were much disposed to join, all pitying the survivors and congratulating the fallen champion.

63. Having by this example made the impression he desired upon the minds of his troops, Hannibal then came forward himself and said, "that he had exhibited these captives in order that they might see in the person of others a vivid representation of what they had to expect themselves, and might so lay their plans all the better in view of the actual state of affairs. Fortune had summoned them to a life and death contest very like that of the two captives, and in which the prize of victory was the same. For they must either conquer, or die, or fall alive into the hands of their enemies; and the prize of victory would not be mere horses and military cloaks, but the most enviable position in the world if they became masters of the wealth of Rome: or if they fell in battle their reward would be to end their life fighting to their last breath for the noblest object, in the heat of the struggle, and with no sense of pain, while if they were beaten, or from desire of life were base enough to fly, or tried to prolong that life by any means except victory, every sort of misery and misfortune would be their lot: for it was impossible that any one of them could be so irrational or senseless, when he remembered the length of the journey he had performed from his native land, and the number of enemies that lay between him and it and the size of the rivers he had crossed, as to cherish the hope of being able to reach his home by flight. They should therefore cast away such vain hopes, and regard their position as being exactly that of the combatants whom they had but now been watching. For, as in their case, all congratulated the dead as much as the victor, and commiserated the survivors; so they should think of the alternatives before themselves, and should, one and all, come upon the field of battle resolved, if possible, to conquer, and, if not, to die. Life with defeat was a hope that must by no means whatever be entertained. If they reasoned and resolved thus, victory and safety would certainly attend them: for it never happened that men who came to such a resolution, whether of deliberate purpose or from being driven to bay, were disappointed in their hope of beating their opponents in the field. And when it chanced, as was the case with the Romans, that the enemy had in most cases a hope of quite an opposite character, from the near neighbourhood of their native country making flight an obvious means of safety, then it was clear that the courage which came of despair would carry the day."

Polybius, The Histories, Book III, p.168 169.
Translated by Evelyn S. Shuckburgh
In Parentheses Publications, Greek Series,
Cambridge, Ontario 2002.

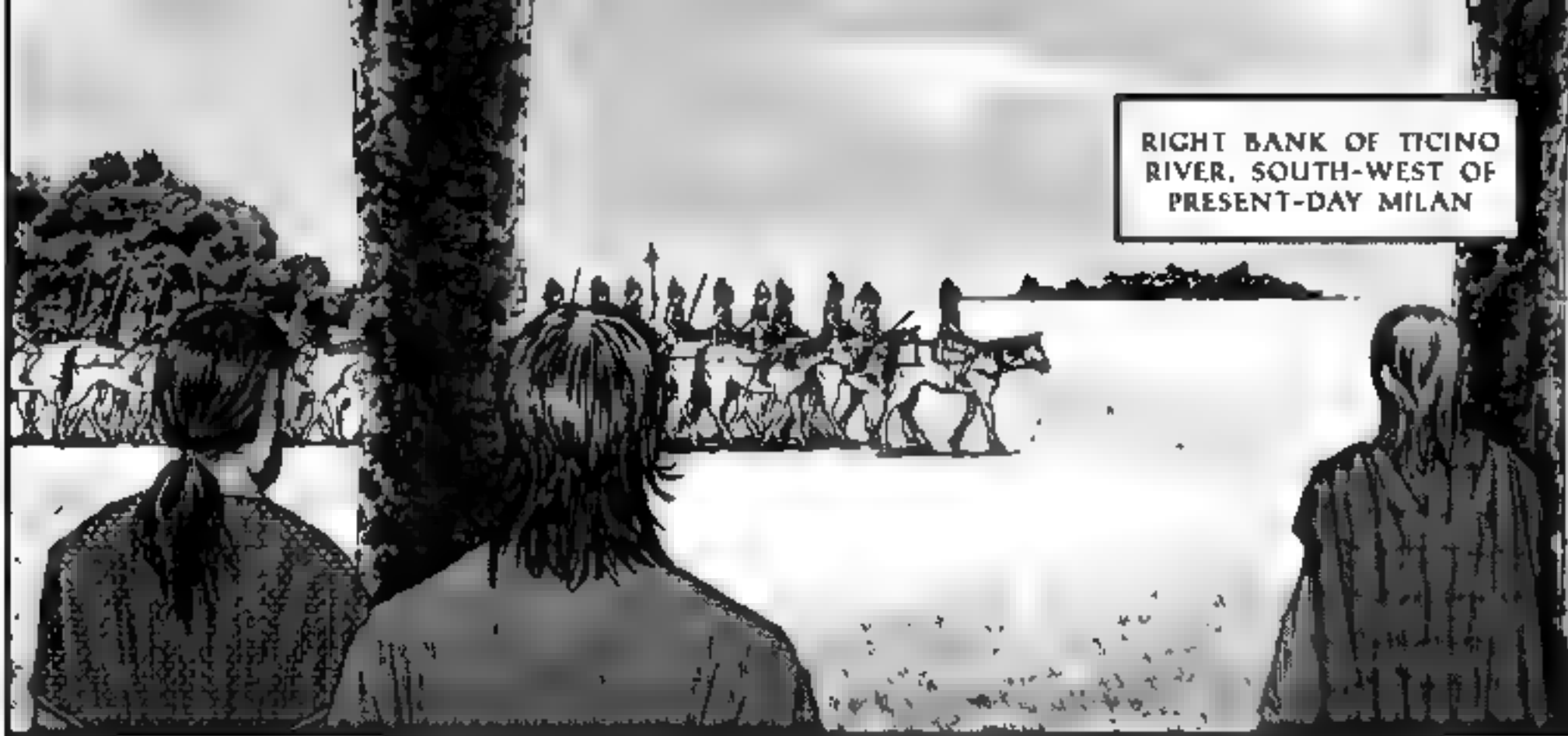
VISIT OUR BLOG AND CHEER US ON
SO WE CAN KEEP GOING. THANK YOU
[HTTP://MANGASYNDROME.BLOGSPOT.COM/](http://MANGASYNDROME.BLOGSPOT.COM/)



of 2008, 100 years 1908

1908 THE UNIVERSITY

RIGHT BANK OF TICINO
RIVER, SOUTH-WEST OF
PRESENT-DAY MILAN



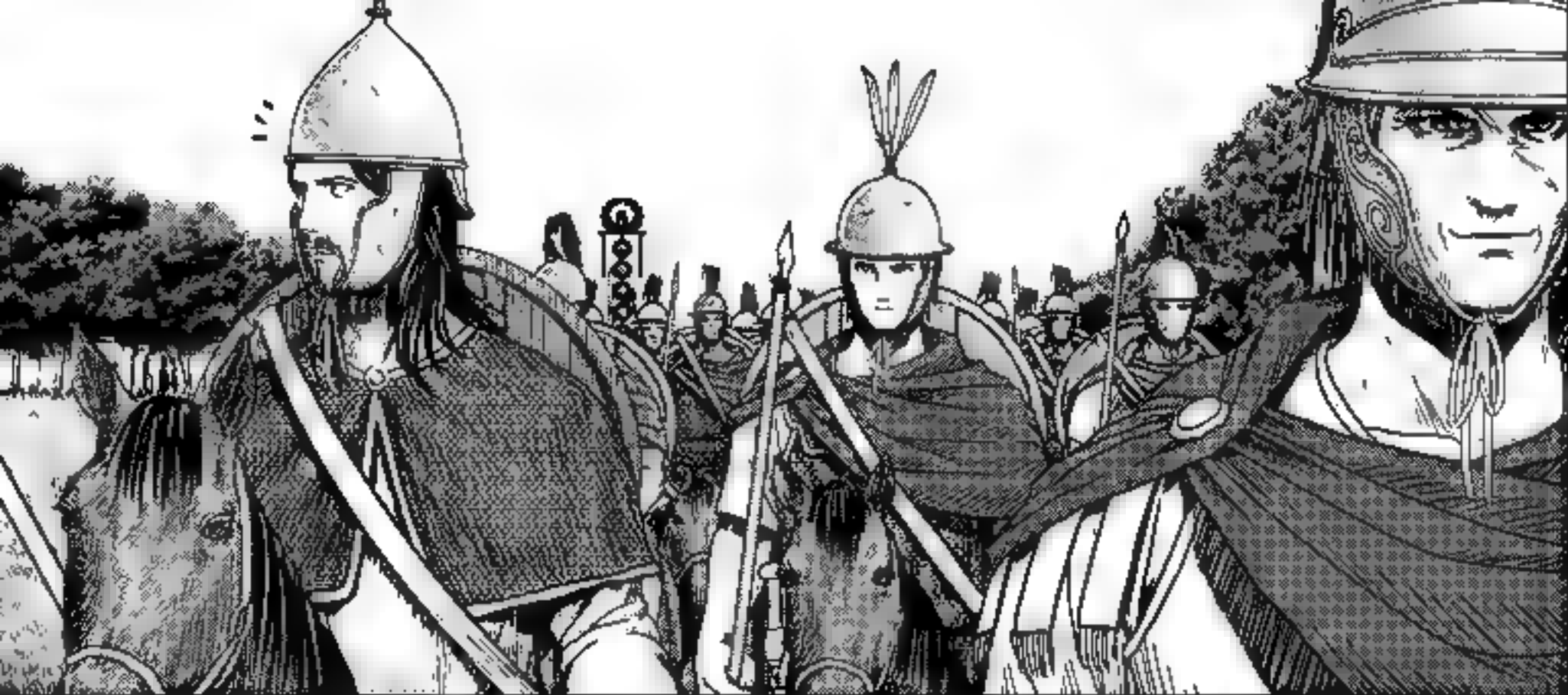
THAT WILL BE
ENOUGH TO DIS-
SUADE THE PEOP-
LES WHO ARE
STILL HESITANT
ABOUT JOINING
HANNIBAL.

THANKS TO
THEM, THE
NEWS ABOUT
OUR PRE-
SENCE WILL
SPREAD LIKE
A HANDFUL
OF POWDER

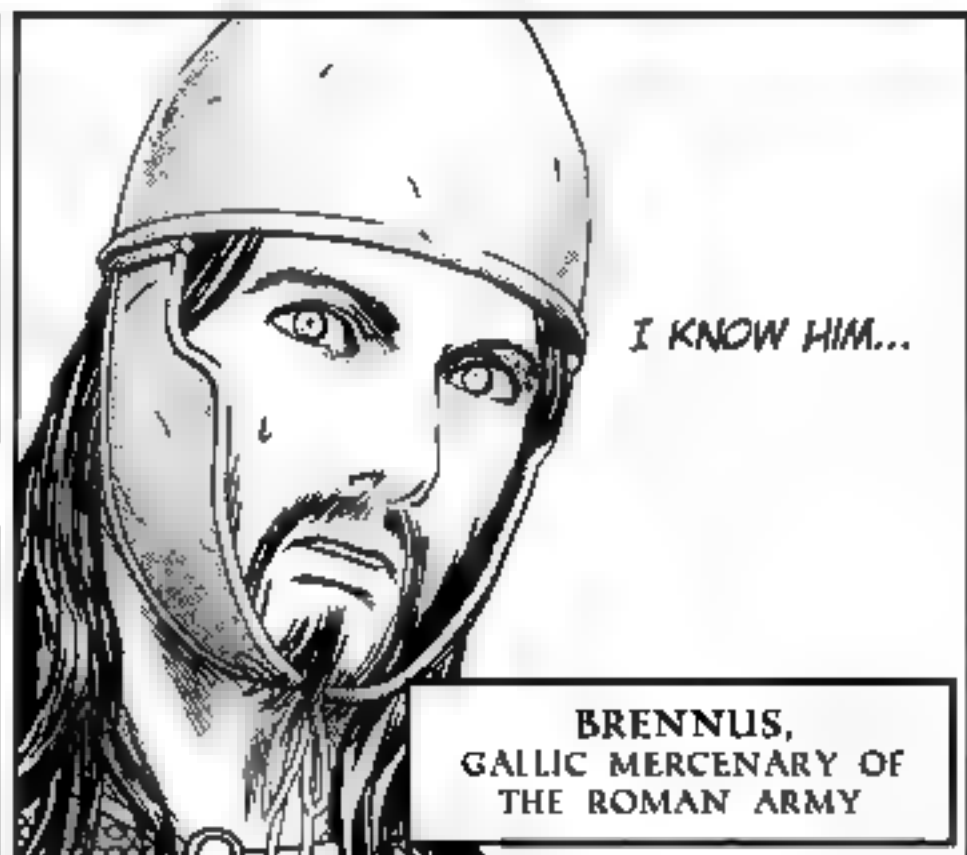


LOOKS LIKE THE
GAULS HAVE
GATHERED TO
WATCH OUR
BATTALION MOVE
OUT.





HE'S
THAT
VILLAGE
CHIEF ..



I KNOW HIM...

BRENNUS,
GALLIC MERCENARY OF
THE ROMAN ARMY



SOME-
THING'S
WRONG...





YOU KNOW, BRENNUS...

PERSONALLY, I DON'T WANT TO GO TO WAR...



THE ONLY THING THAT I WANT IS TO LIVE FREE AND ENJOY LIFE THE WAY I WANT TO...

HOWEVER, WITHOUT ROME, EVEN THOSE SIMPLE WISHES MAY NOT BE ATTAINABLE.

THE GLORY OF ROME, THE IMPACT ON MY POSSIBLE CAREER.. ALL THAT DOESN'T AFFECT ME!



WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?



MY POSITION ISN'T AS DIFFERENT AS YOURS AND THE OTHER GAULS.

OH, I'M JUST SAYING THAT



AND ALSO, IN PART, OUT OF OBLIGATION.

IN THE END, MY REASONS ARE SELFISH. I FIGHT FOR MY OWN INTERESTS



AND DETER-
MINATION
GOES
THROUGH
LOYALTY.

A STRONG
DETERMINA-
TION IS
NEEDED IN
ORDER TO
ENGAGE IN A
BATTLE WE
DIDN'T
CHOOSE.

OTHE-
RWISE, THE
WORST IS
QUICK TO
HAPPEN!

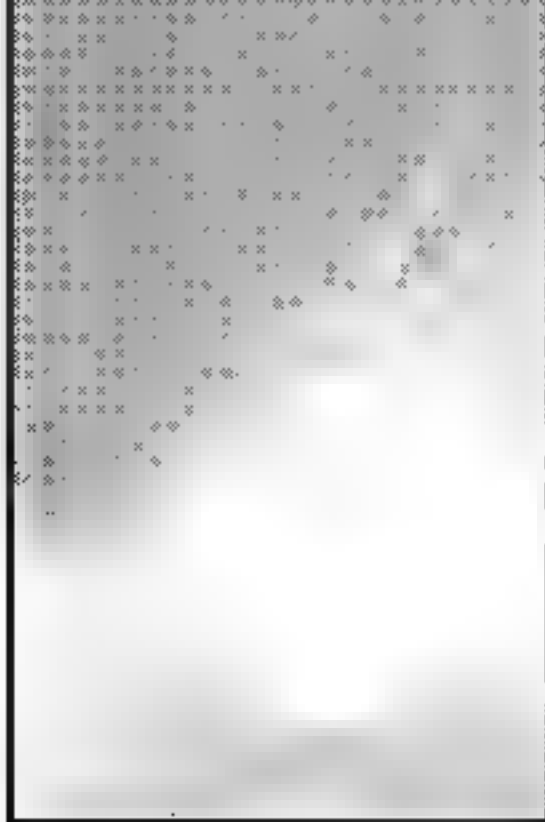


SO I'M ASKING
YOU IN THE NAME
OF LOYALTY:
WHAT ARE YOU
HIDING FROM US?



HE'S GOT AN
INCREDIBLE
INSTINCT!





SINCE IT
SEEMS IMPOR-
TANT TO YOU,
I'LL TELL YOU
WHAT I THINK

AND WHAT I
PREFERRED
TO KEEP TO
MYSELF UP
UNTIL NOW.



WE MIGHT
NOT LIVE
TO SEE
TOMORROW!

IF WE UNDE-
RESTIMATE
HANNIBAL
TOO MUCH,



WHAT?!

COMMANDER,
WE SEE A
CLOUD OF
DUST ON
THE RIGHT!



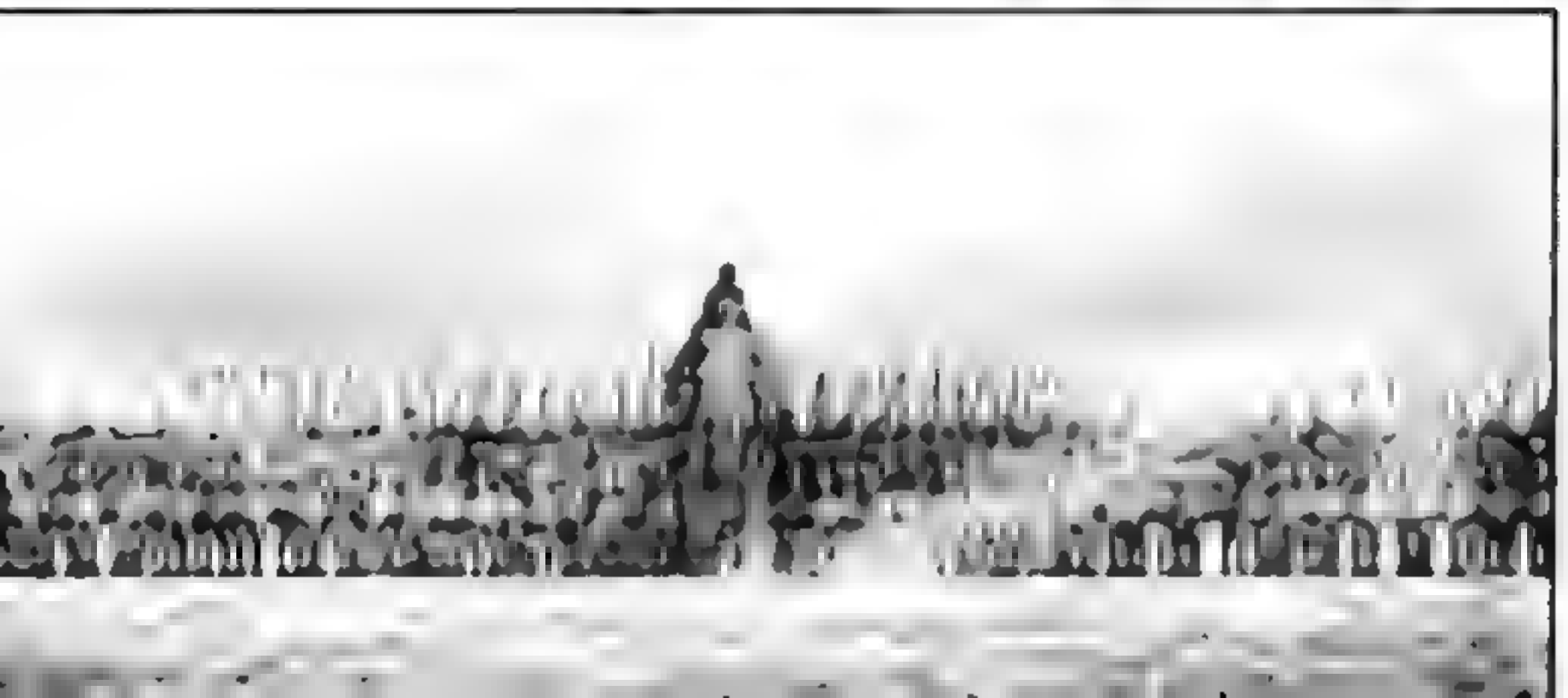
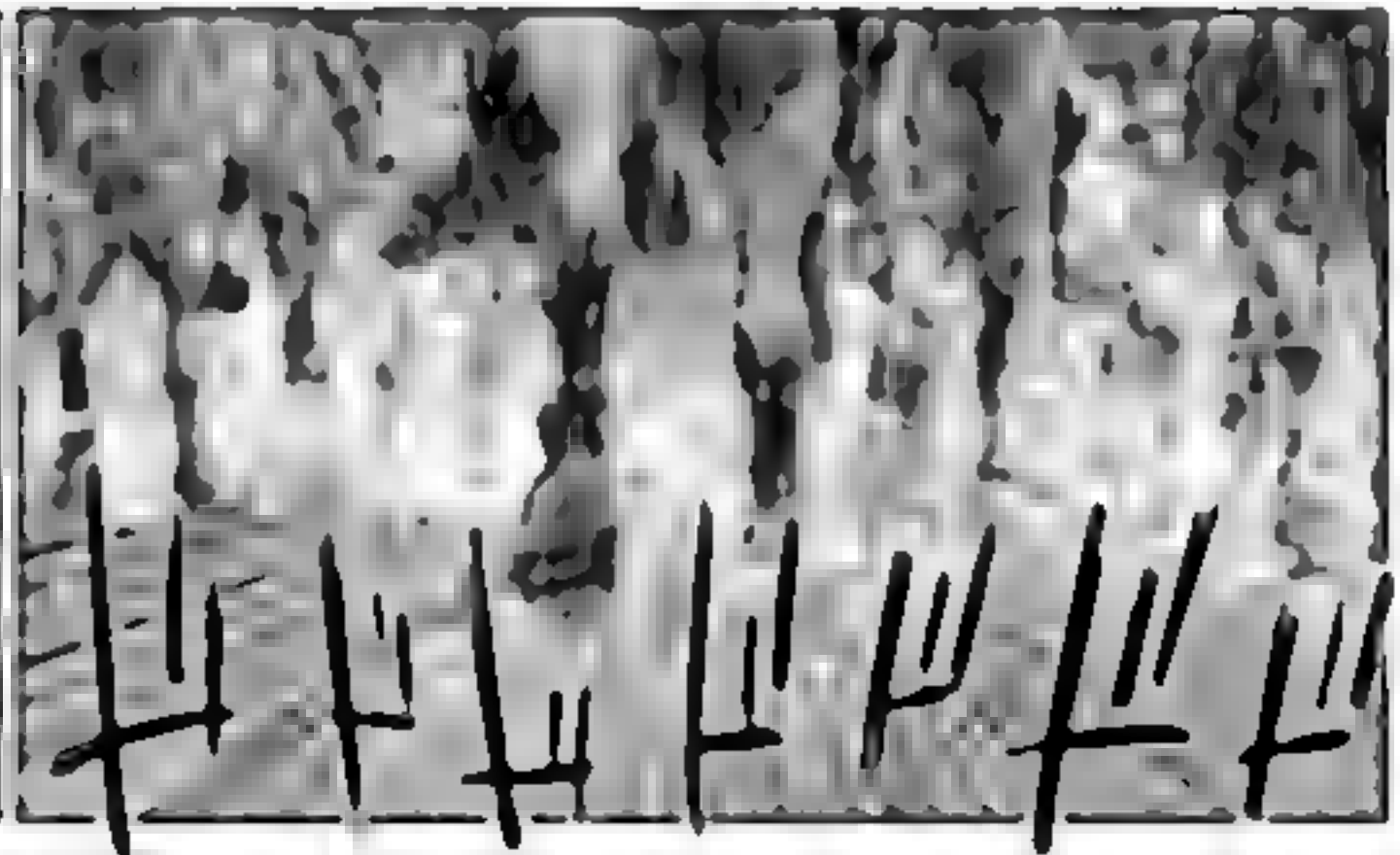
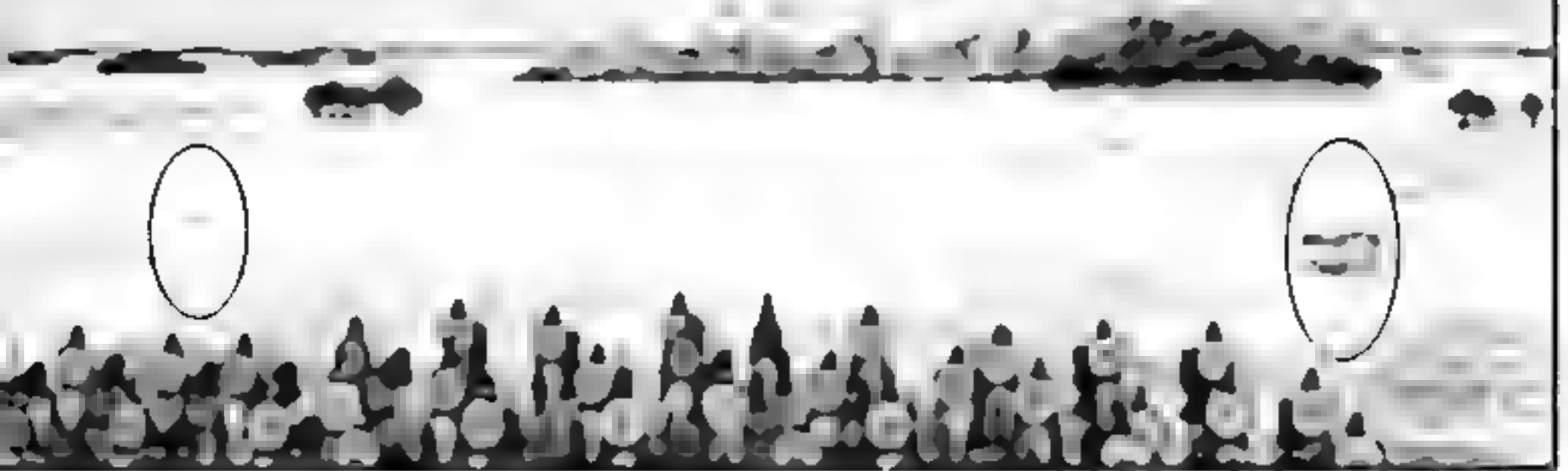
...?
!?

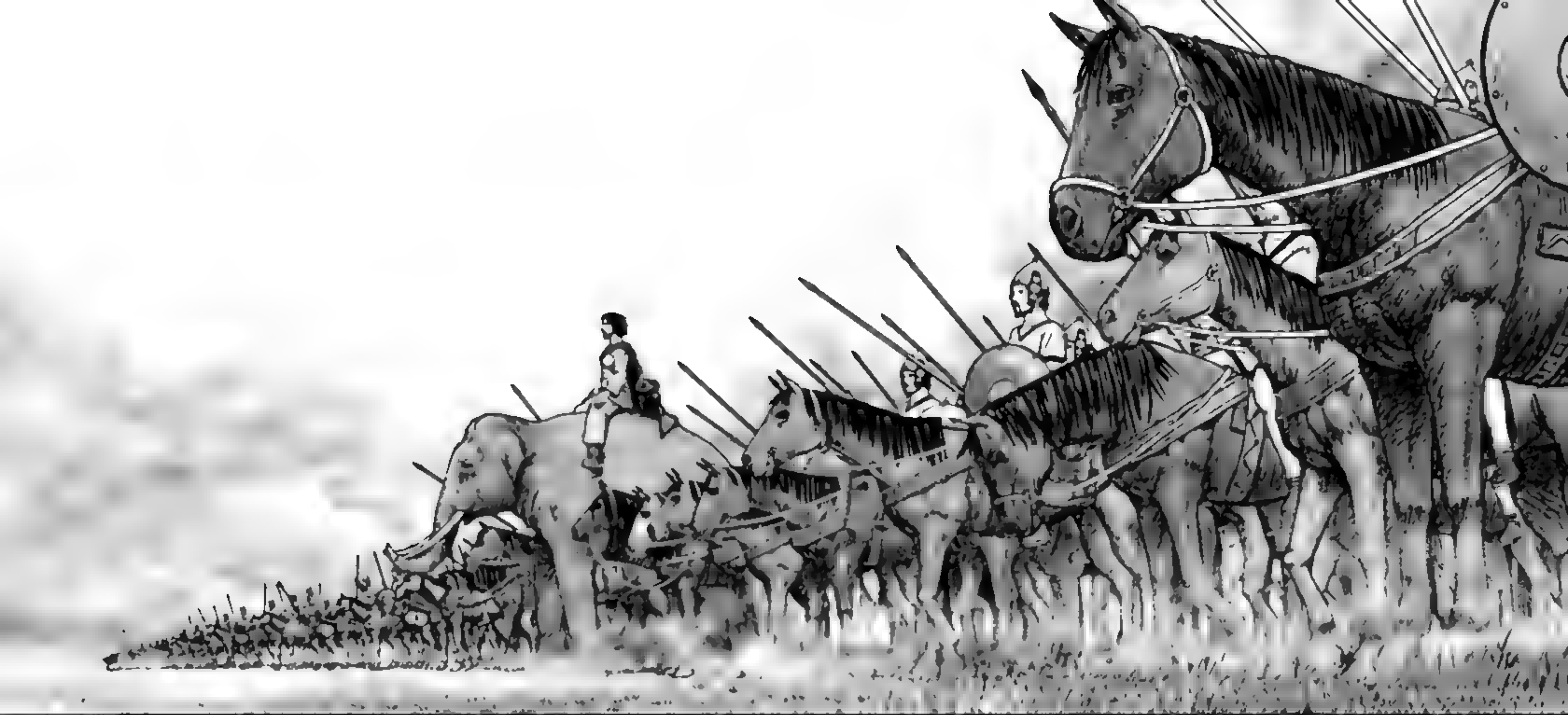


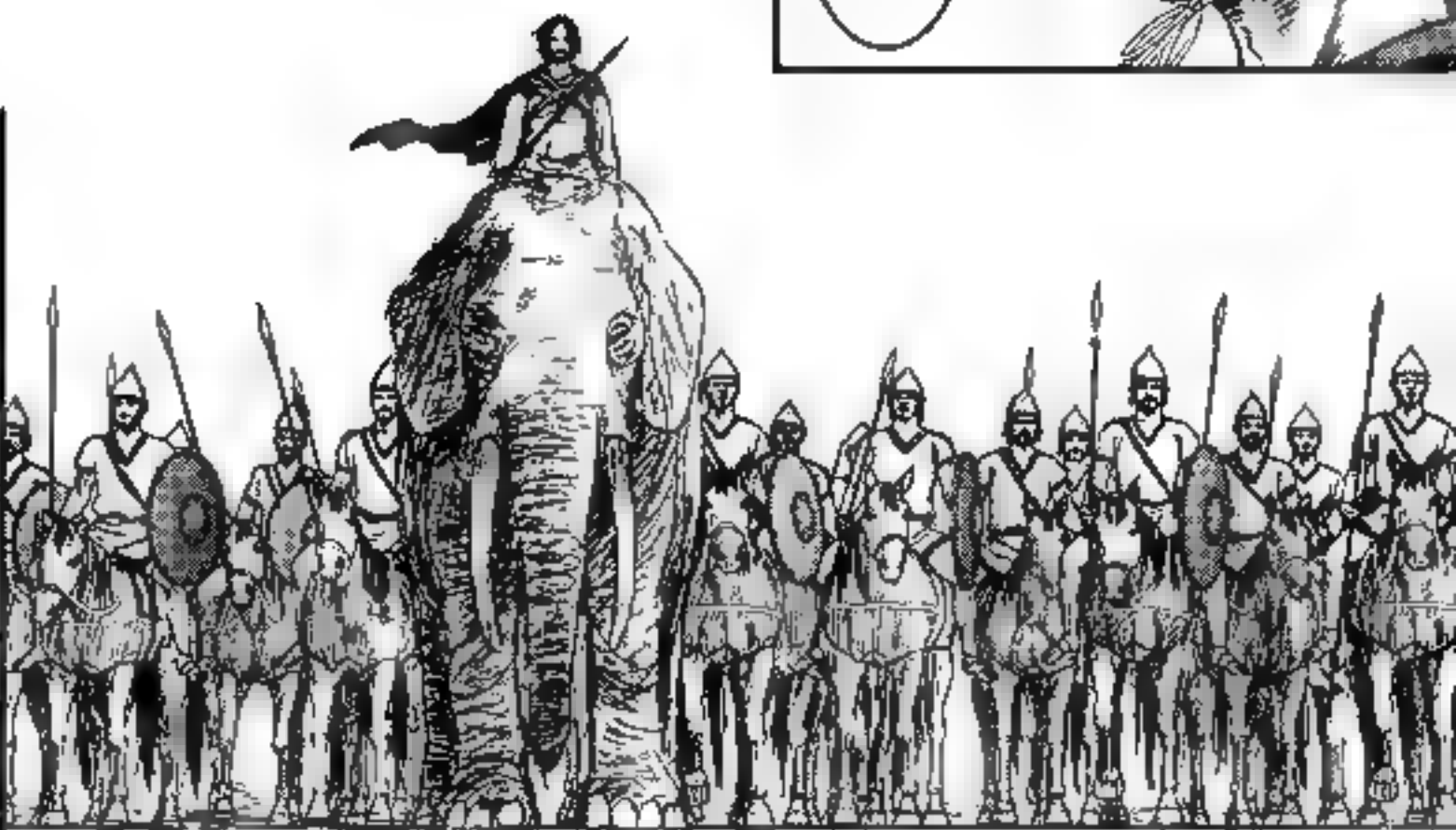
WHAT DO
YOU
MEAN BY
THAT?

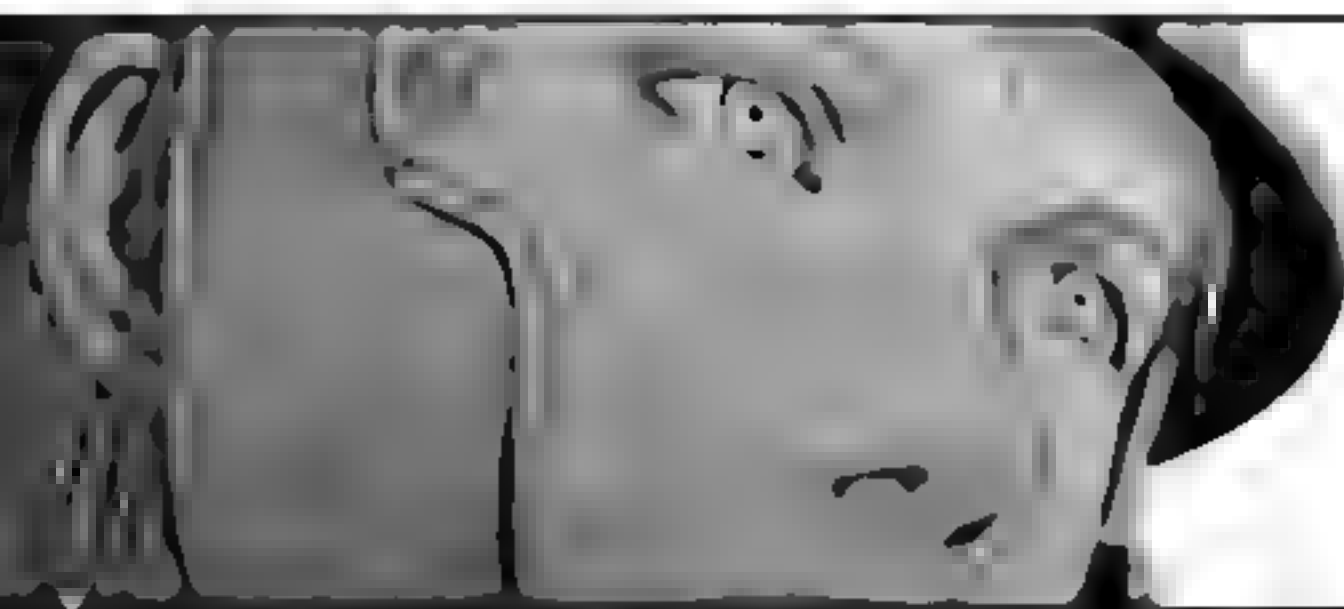
NOTHING
MORE THAN
WHAT
YOU'VE
ALREADY
UNDERS-
TOOD.

1 2 3 4 5 6

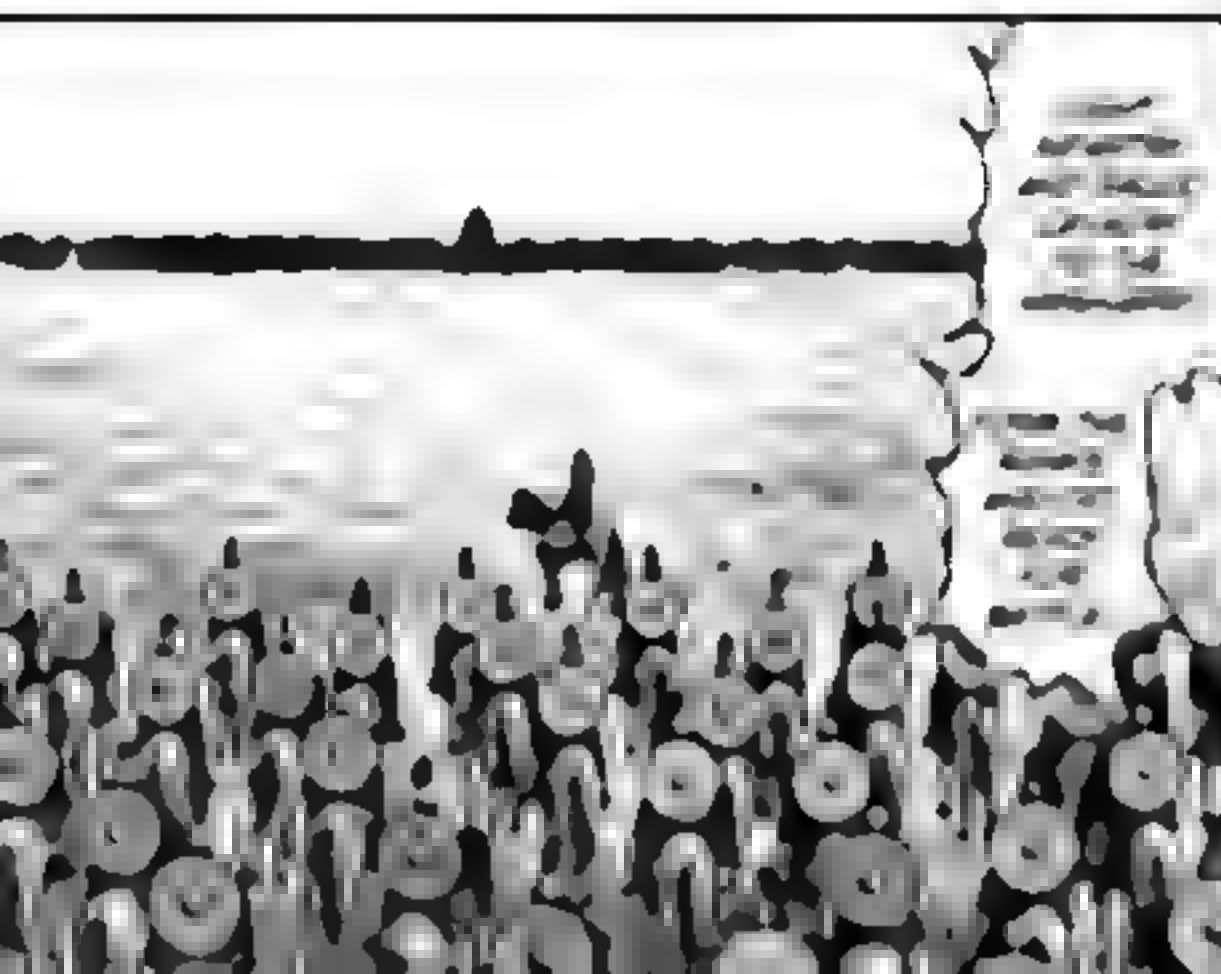








SO IT'S HIM
HIMSELF





I DON'T WANT TO BE PLACED IN THE FIRST LINE!

AND WE'RE BARELY 4 000!

THIS IS MADNESS! THEY COUNT AT LEAST 6 000

MOVE FORWARD! FASTER!



BE COURAGEOUS, GAULS! YOUR BRAVERY WILL DEFINE YOUR



INDEED, THE SITUATION DOES LOOK BAD...



THAT'S EASY TO SAY FOR A CAVALRY-MAN IN THE LAST LINE!



THE STAKES ARE CRUCIAL... AND WE'RE INFERIOR IN NUMBER FACING AN UNPREDICTABLE GENERAL WHOM NOBODY KNOWS HIS TRUE VALUE IN BATTLE

THE OUTCOME OF THIS BATTLE

WILL DETERMINE THE CHOICE OF THE RELUCTANT GAULS!



BUT WE
WON'T BE
ABLE TO
RETREAT.



I KNOW
WHAT YOU
WANT TO
SAY.

FATHER...



WE CAN
STILL WIN.

DON'T WORRY.
EVEN IF WE'RE
OUTNUMBERED,



THIS WAS
INTENDED
TO BE AS
A SHOW OF
POWER. UN-
FORTUNATELY,
FATE IS
AGAINST US.

THEN ALL
THE GAULS
WILL JOIN
HANNIBAL
SWELLING
THE RANKS
OF HIS
ARMY!

IF WE
RETREAT
NOW,
ROME
WILL BE
LOOKED
AT AS
WEAK AND
COWARD



EVEN THE NUMDIAN
CAVALRY WHO ARE
KNOWN FOR
THEIR FEROCITY.

OUR SCOUTS WERE
ONLY A HANDFUL
BUT THEY WERE
ABLE TO DEFEAT
THEIR ASSAILANTS
QUITE EASILY.

REMEMBER THE
SKIRMISH IN THE
FOREST NEAR
MASSILIA.

HANNIBAL'S ARMY

NUMIDIAN
CAVALRY

IBERIAN CAVALRY

NUMIDIAN
CAVALRY

FIRST LINE: VELITES

SECOND LINE: GALIC CAVALRY

THIRD LINE: ROMAN CAVALRY

ROMAN ARMY

THE ONES
AT THE
CENTER ARE
MOST LIKELY
THE IBERIAN
CAVALRY

THEY'RE BUT
SMALL FRY
ONLY GOOD
AT RUSHING
STRAIGHT
AHEAD
RECKLESSLY.

THOSE AT THE
WINGS ARE THE
NUMIDIANS. THEY
ARE BAREBACK
RIDERS.

T/N: 'VELITES' ARE LIGHT INFANTRY ARMED WITH JAVELINS.

AT LEAST
IN THE END,
OUR SOL-
DIERS..

ALL THOSE
MEN ARE STILL
EXHAUSTED BY
THEIR CROS-
SING OF THE
ALPS.

THERE-
FORE, OUR
ARMY IS
STILL LAR-
GELY SU-
PERIOR TO
THEM.





ATTACK!



WHAT?!

ALL WITH
ME!
MY BRAVE
WARRIORS!





THE
GENERAL HIM-
SELF IS AT THE
SPEAR POINT
OF THE ATTACK!
NOW THIS IS
A STRATEGY
FROM ANOTHER
TIME!

IS HE REALLY
THE MAN WHO
CHALLENGED
THE ALPS?!



OR HE
DOESN'T
REALLY
HAVE FAITH
IN HIS
FOLLOWERS.

IF ONE JAVELIN
PUTS HIM DOWN,
EVERYTHING WILL
BE OVER IN AN
INSTANT!

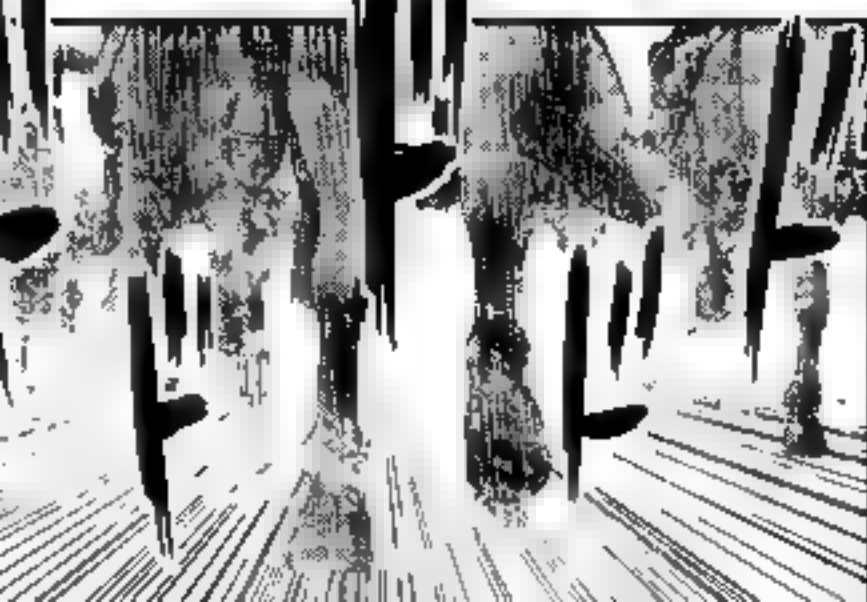


MAYBE HE'S TRYING TO
RESTORE THE SPIRIT
OF HIS WARRIORS WHO
WERE ALREADY TIRED
FROM THE JOURNEY.

BUT THE RISK
SEEMS QUITE BIG
SINCE HE'S AN
OPEN TARGET!



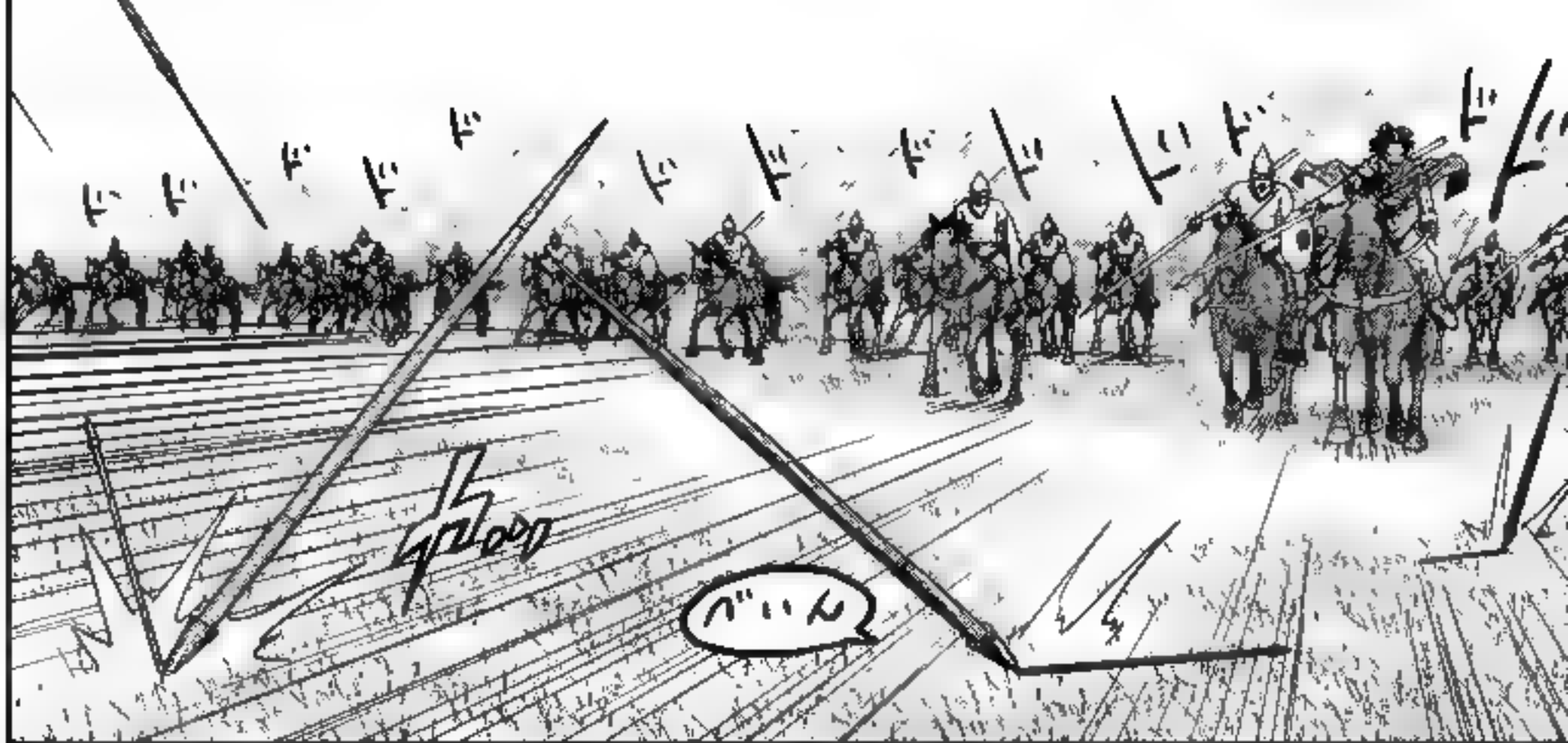
GULP



THE ENEMY'S
GENERAL
OFFERS HIM-
SELF TO OUR
ATTACKS!

LANCERS,
HE'S WITHIN
RANGE OF
YOUR JAVE-
LINS! AIM
RIGHT!









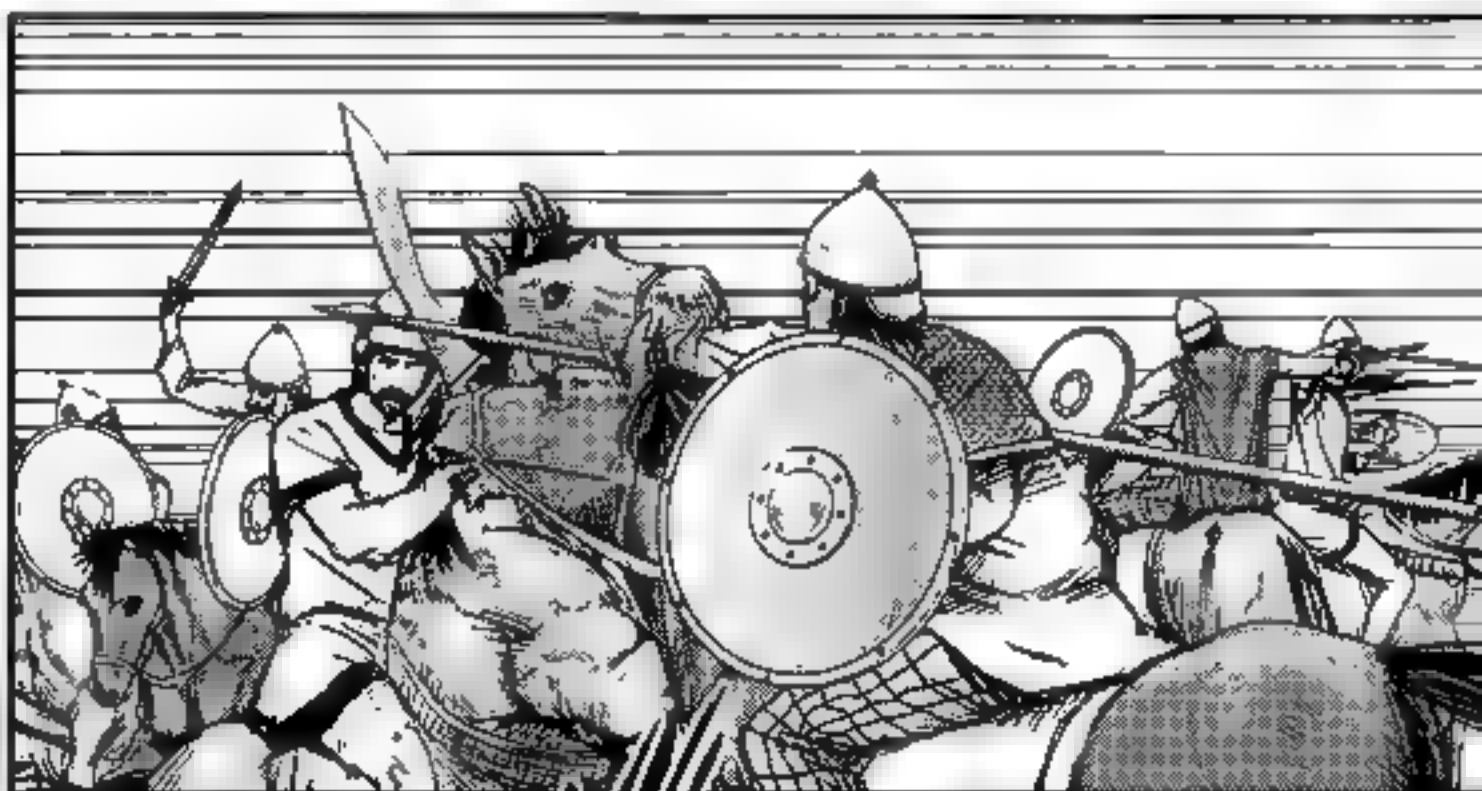
THE
TALENT
OF OUR
GALLIC
WARRIORS
IN CLOSE
COMBAT
CAN MAKE
THE DIFFE-
RENCE.

BUT THAT
MIGHT NOT
BE NECES-
SARY THE
BATTLE
MIGHT END
SOON!



IT'S TOO
EARLY FOR
THAT. WHEN
THE TIME
COMES, YOU
WILL RELIEVE
THE GALLIC
CAVALRY.

FATHER,
WHEN DO
YOU INTEND
FOR US TO
GO TO
BATTLE?

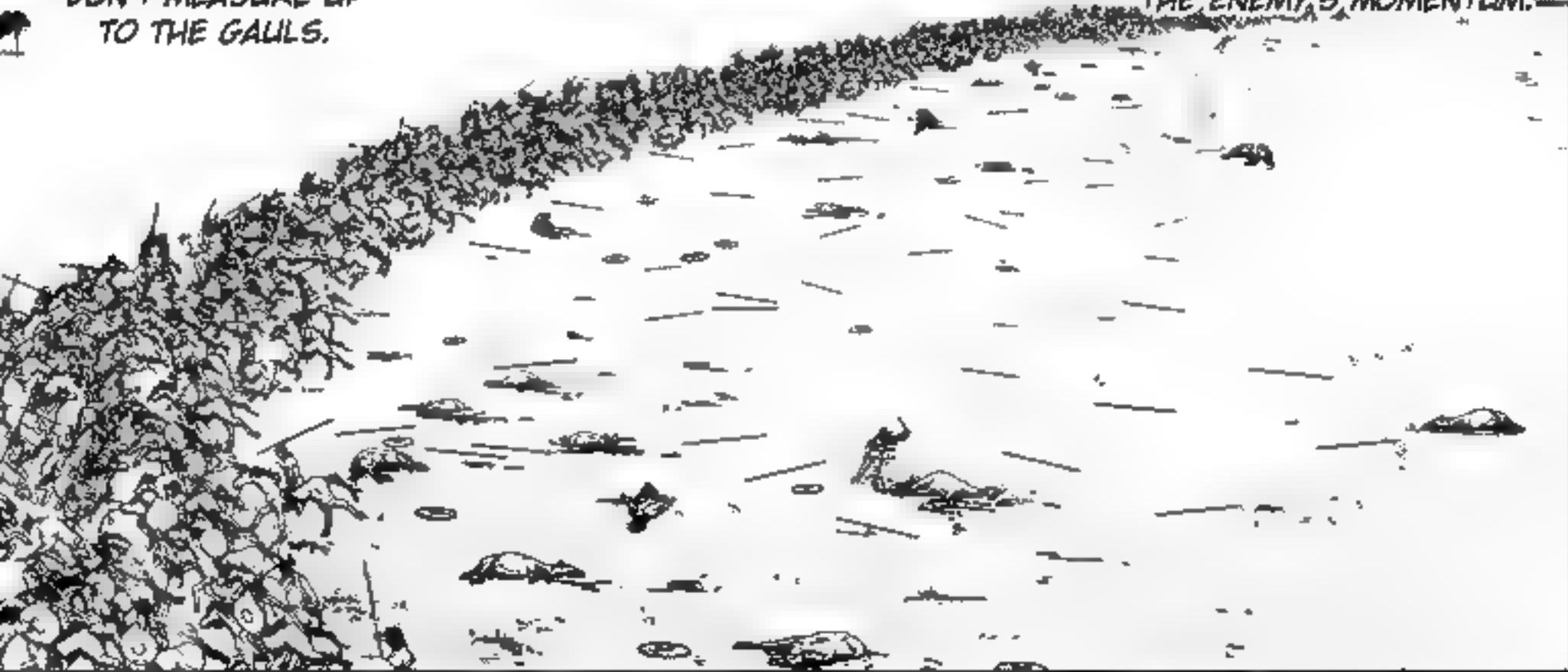


ACTUALLY, IT'S
BETTER TO FIGHT
BY THEIR SIDE THAN
AGAINST THEM!



EVEN WITH HANNIBAL
AT THE HELM TO
BOOST THEIR MORALE,
THE IBERIANS STILL
DON'T MEASURE UP
TO THE GAULS.

THE INTERVENTION OF
THE GAULS ON THE
BATTLE FIELD DISRUPTED
THE ENEMY'S MOMENTUM.



CONVERGE
ON THE
CENTER!
HANNIBAL IS
OUR TARGET!

LET
THEM
ESCAPE!



BUT THE
HARDEST PART
IS YET TO BE
DONE...



THAT'S EASY
TO SAY WHEN
YOU'RE SAFE
BEHIND YOUR
GUARDS!



COME ON,
SHOW
SOME
SPIRIT!

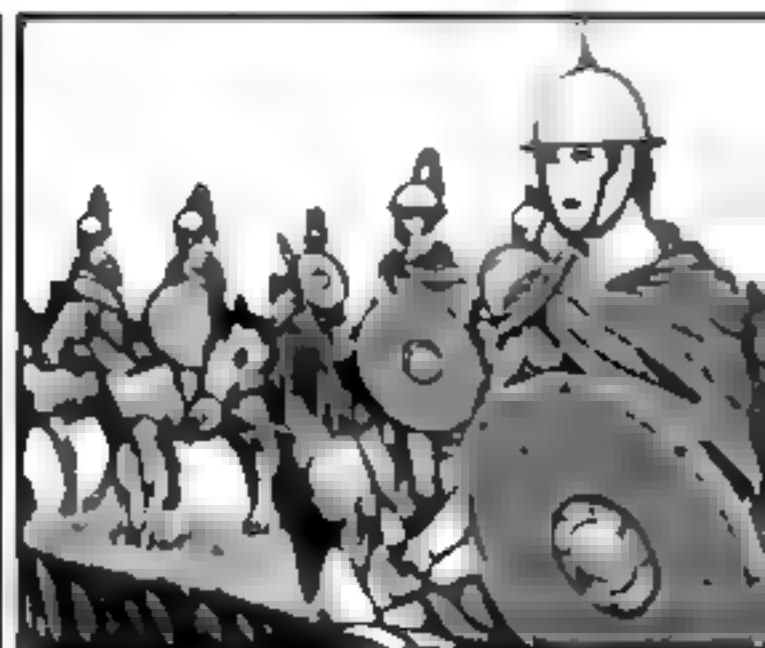


HE'S NOT THE
KIND OF
OPPONENT WE
CAN GET RID
OF EASILY...



NONE OF THEM
SEEM TO WORRY
HIM.

WHY?
THEORETICALLY,
EACH GALE
ATTACKING HIM
SHOULD BE ABLE
TO DEFEAT HIM,
YET.



YOU MUST
FACE THE
FACT



HAA

HAA

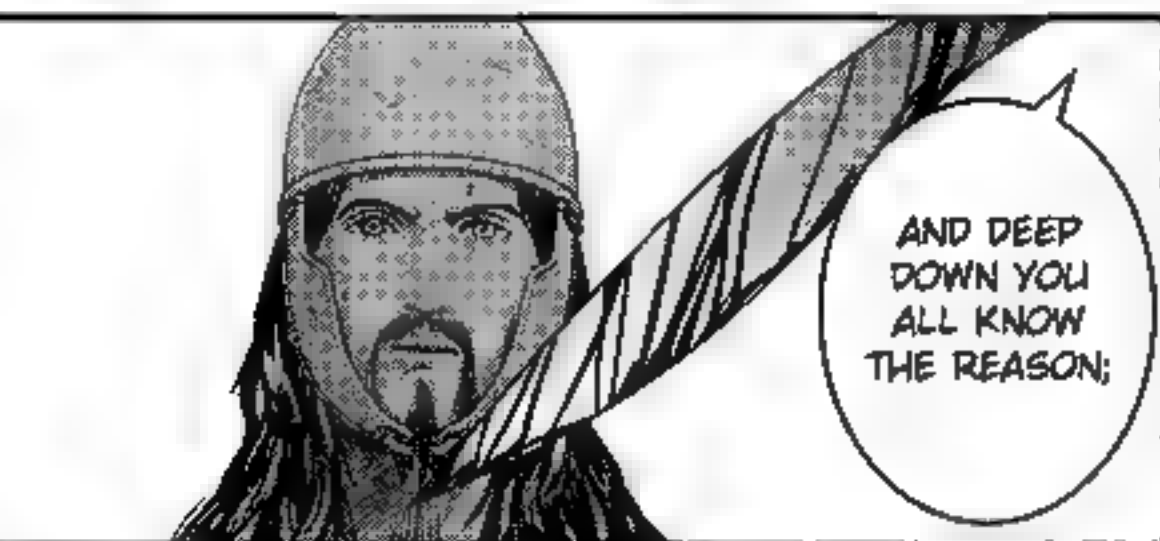
HAA

HAA



WILL EVER
BE ABLE TO
DEFEAT ME!

NONE
OF YOU



AND DEEP
DOWN YOU
ALL KNOW
THE REASON;



I AM YOUR
ONLY HOPE

TO SEE ROME
GO DOWN!

ad astra

PUBLIUS CORNELIUS SCIPIO AFRICANUS TO HANNIBAL BARCA

CREATED BY MIHACHI KAGANO

HISTORICAL NOTES SHARED FOR

EPISODE 05:
THE ENCOUNTER



EPISODE 06:
STRATEGY

Pages 10-11 will be included with next episode to avoid spoilers.

SCIPIO'S SPEECH

64. About the same day Publius Scipio, having now crossed the Padus,* and being resolved to make a farther advance across the Ticinus, ordered those who were skilled in such works to construct a bridge across this latter river, and then summoned a meeting of the remainder of his army and addressed them: dwelling principally on the reputation of their country and of the ancestors' achievements. But he referred particularly to their present position, saying, "that they ought to entertain no doubt of victory, though they had never as yet had any experience of the enemy; and should regard it as a piece of extravagant presumption of the Carthaginians to venture to face Romans, by whom they had been so often beaten, and to whom they had for so many years paid tribute and been all but slaves. And when in addition to this they at present knew thus much of their mettle, — that they dared not face them, what was the fair inference to be drawn for the future? Their cavalry, in a chance encounter on the Rhone with those of Rome, had, so far from coming off well, lost a large number of men, and had fled with disgrace to their own camp; and the general and his army, as soon as they knew of the approach of his legions, had beat a retreat, which was exceedingly like a flight, and, contrary to their original purpose, had in their terror taken the road over the Alps. And it was evident that Hannibal had destroyed the greater part of his army; and that what he had left was feeble and unfit for service, from the hardships they had undergone: in the same way he had lost the majority of his horses, and made the rest useless from the length and difficult nature of the journey. They had, therefore, only to show themselves to the enemy." But, above all, he pointed out that "his own presence at their head ought to be special encouragement to them: for that he would not have left his fleet and Spanish campaign, on which he had been sent, and have come to them in such haste, if he had not seen on consideration that his doing so was necessary for his country's safety, and that a certain victory was secured to him by it."

* Padus is the Latin for Po (Po river).

Polybius, The Histories, Book III, p.169-170.
Translated by Evelyn S. Shuckburgh
In Parentheses Publications, Greek Series,
Cambridge, Ontario 2002.



THE
BLOOD-RED
GLIMMER OF
HOPE THAT
YOU'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR

HEAR
ME WELL,
GALLS

ad astra Episode 006

EPISODE 6



STRATEGY



IS WHAT
I'M HOLDING
HERE NOW,
IN MY HANDS.





WHY
IS HE
TURNING
AWAY?!



DAMN
IT!



HUH?!



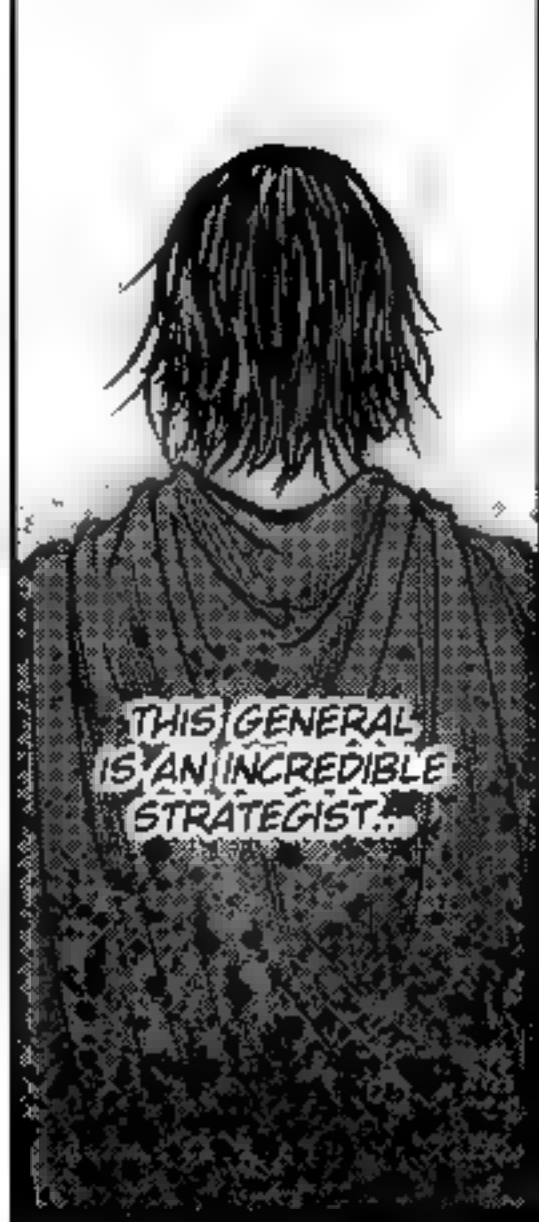
WHAT'S
HAPPE-
NING?!



GO AFTER
HIM! DON'T
LET HIM
ESCAPE!

AAAAA

AAAH!



THIS GENERAL
IS AN INCREDIBLE
STRATEGIST...

WHILE THE
NUMIDIANS
WERE
FLANKING US!

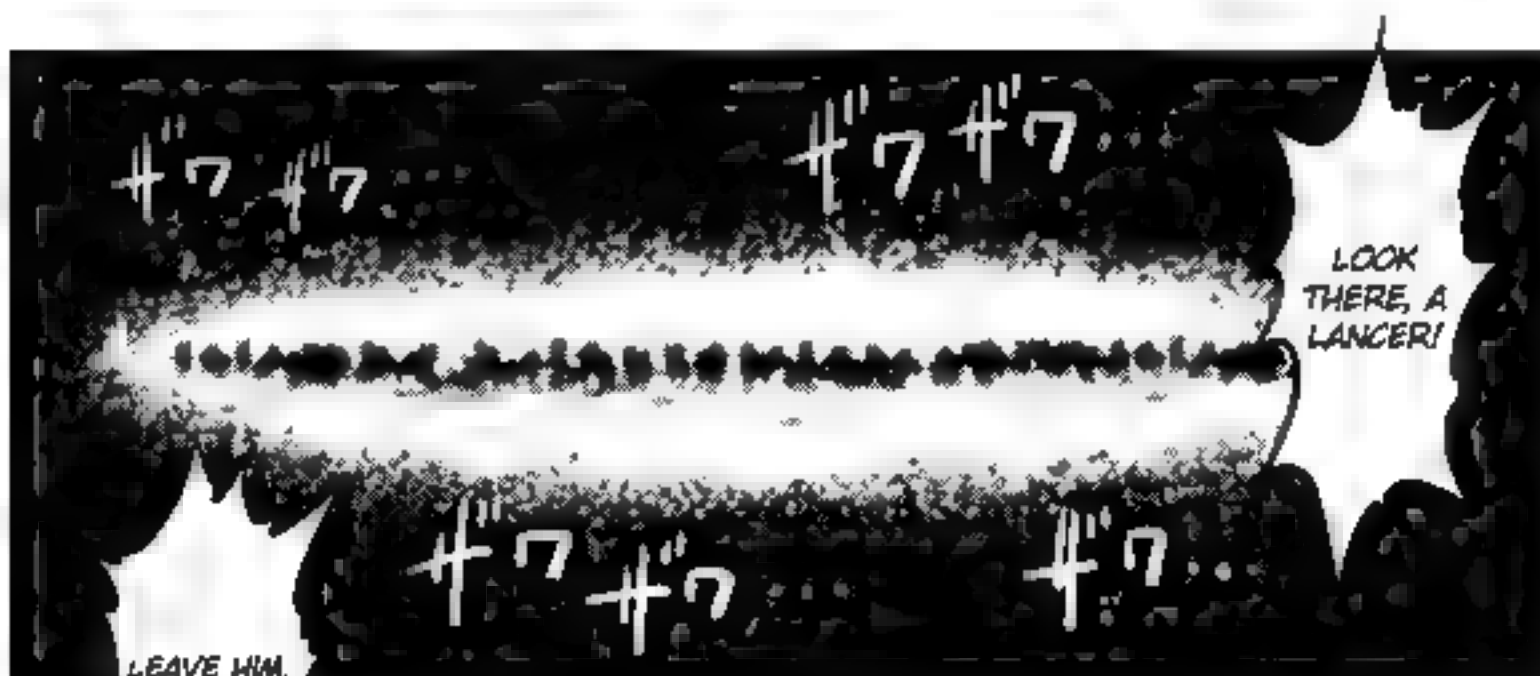
OFFERING HIMSELF
AS BAIT, HE
ATTRACTED ALL OUR
ATTENTION TO HIM



HE'S
CLUNNING...

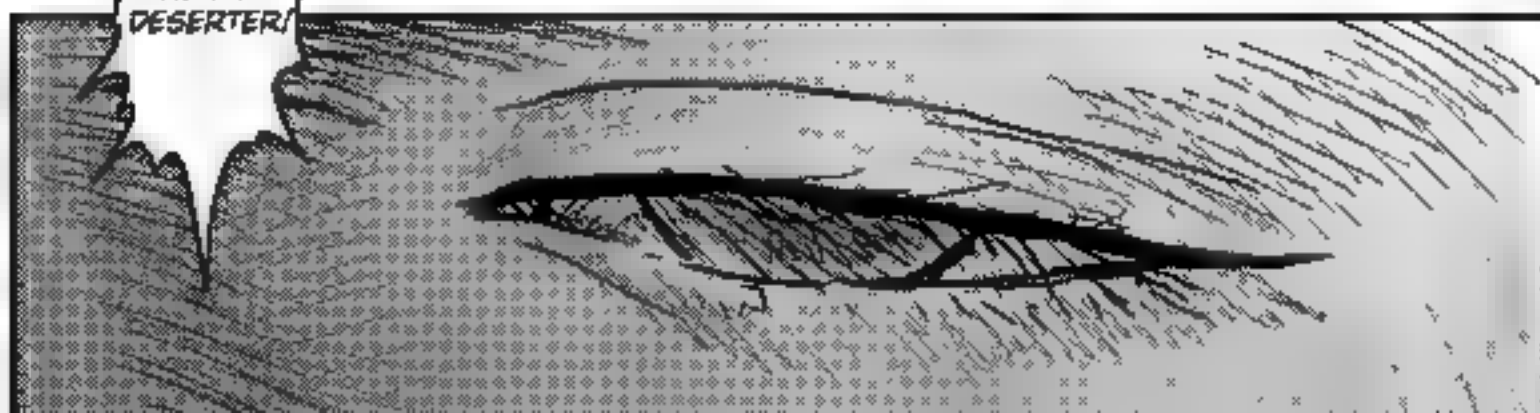


HANNIBAL BARCA



LOOK
THERE, A
LANGER!

LEAVE HIM.
HE'S A
DESERTER!





HMM?



WHAT'S
THIS
RACKET?

GENERAL,
WHAT SHOULD
WE DO?



H-HELP!

AAAAH!

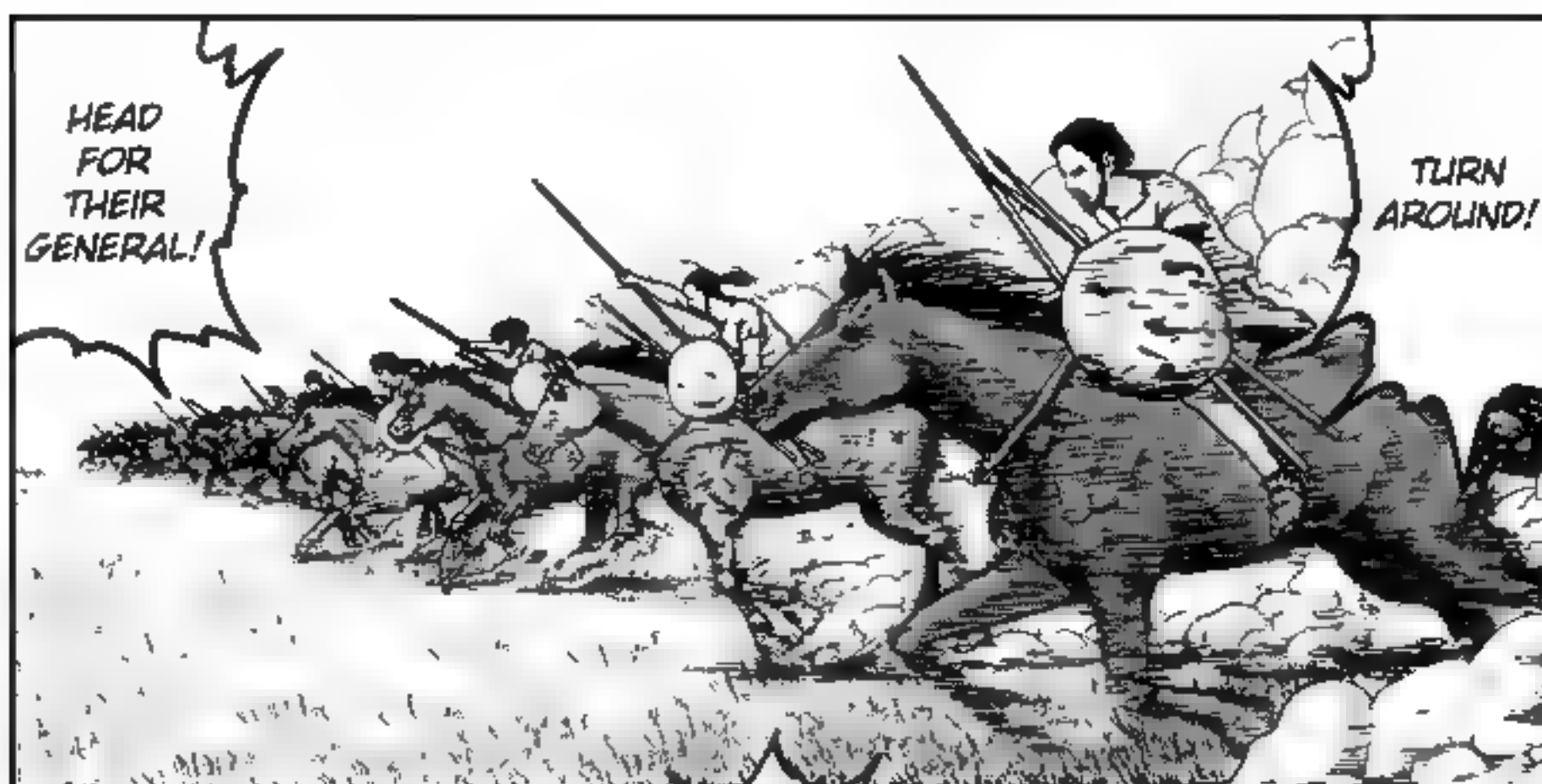


IS IT
BECAUSE I
DIDN'T FLEE
WITH THE
OTHERS?

HOLD ON,
IF I'M
STILL ALIVE,



.....



HEAD
FOR
THEIR
GENERAL!

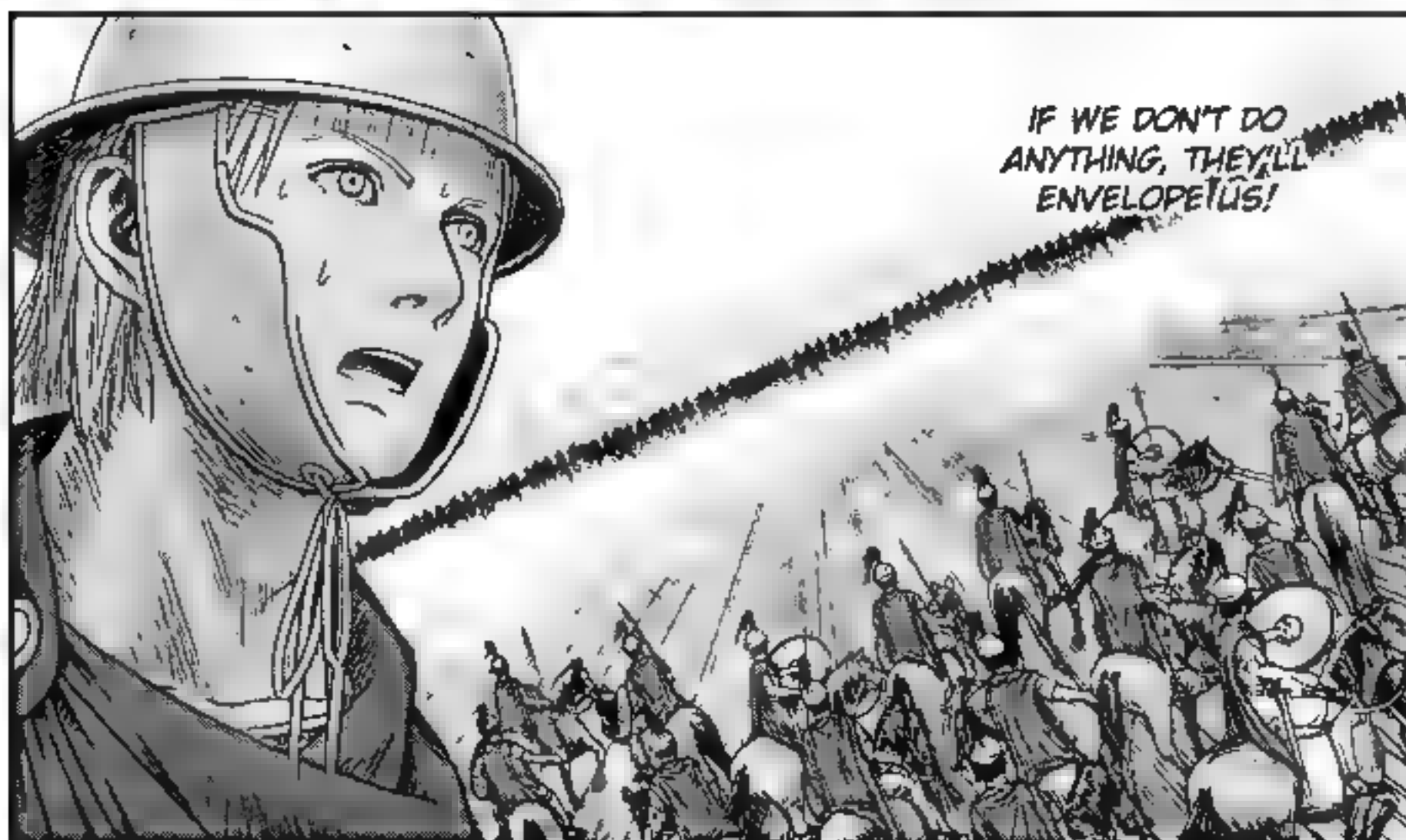
TURN
AROUND!



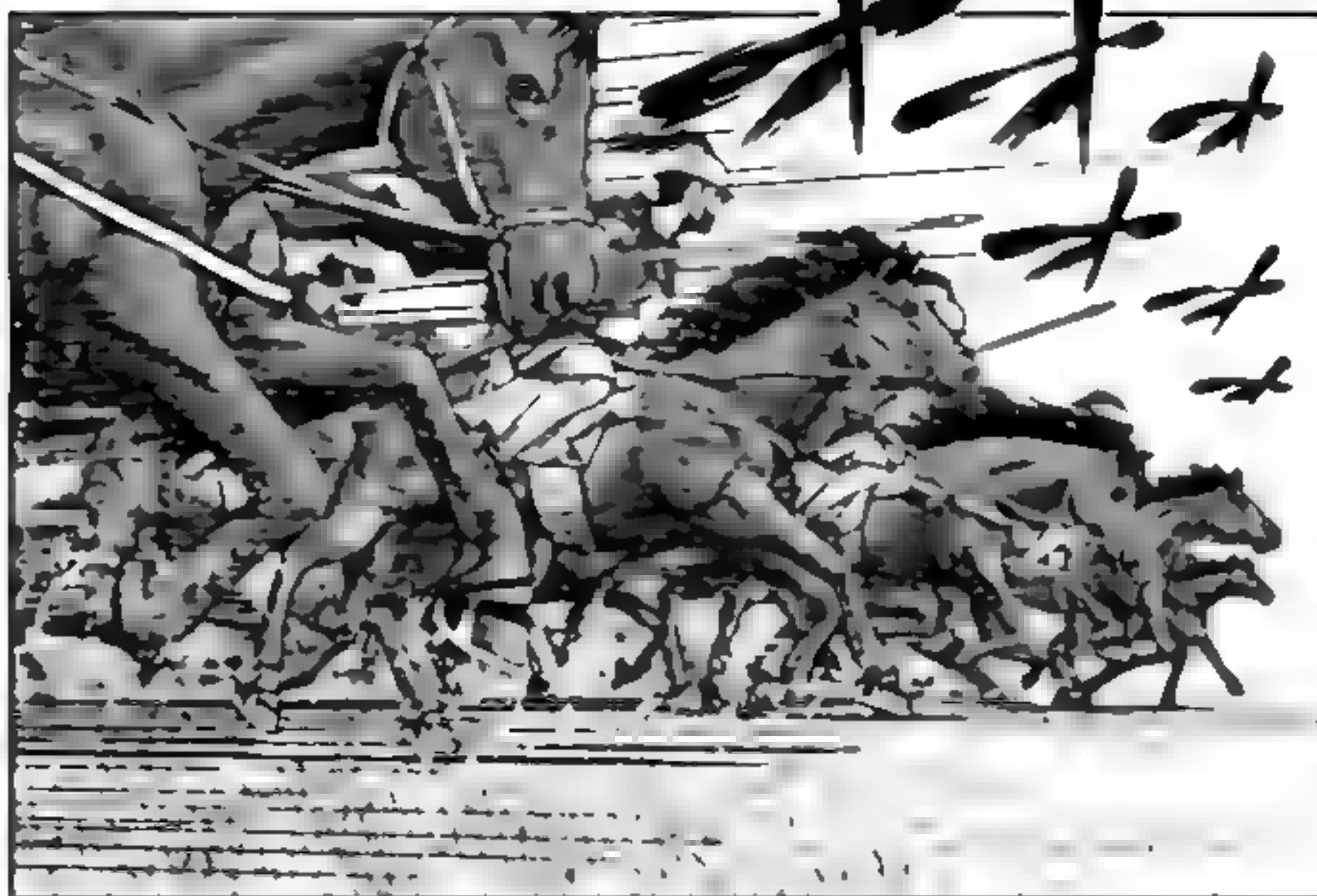
FATHER,
YOUR ORDERS,
QUICKLY!

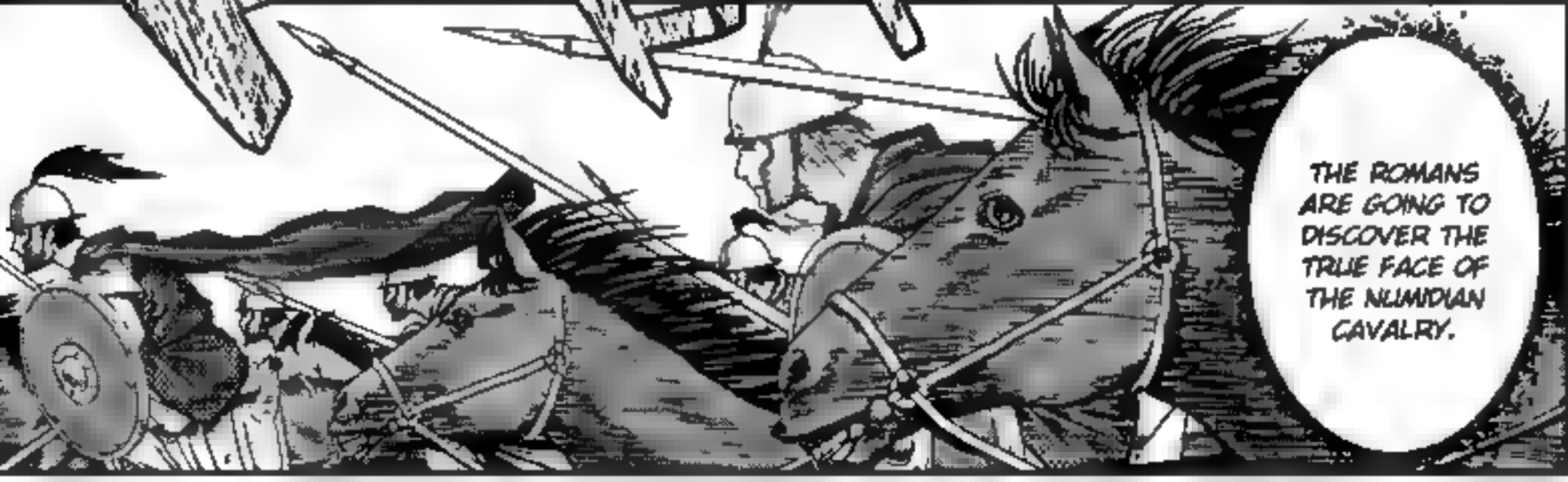
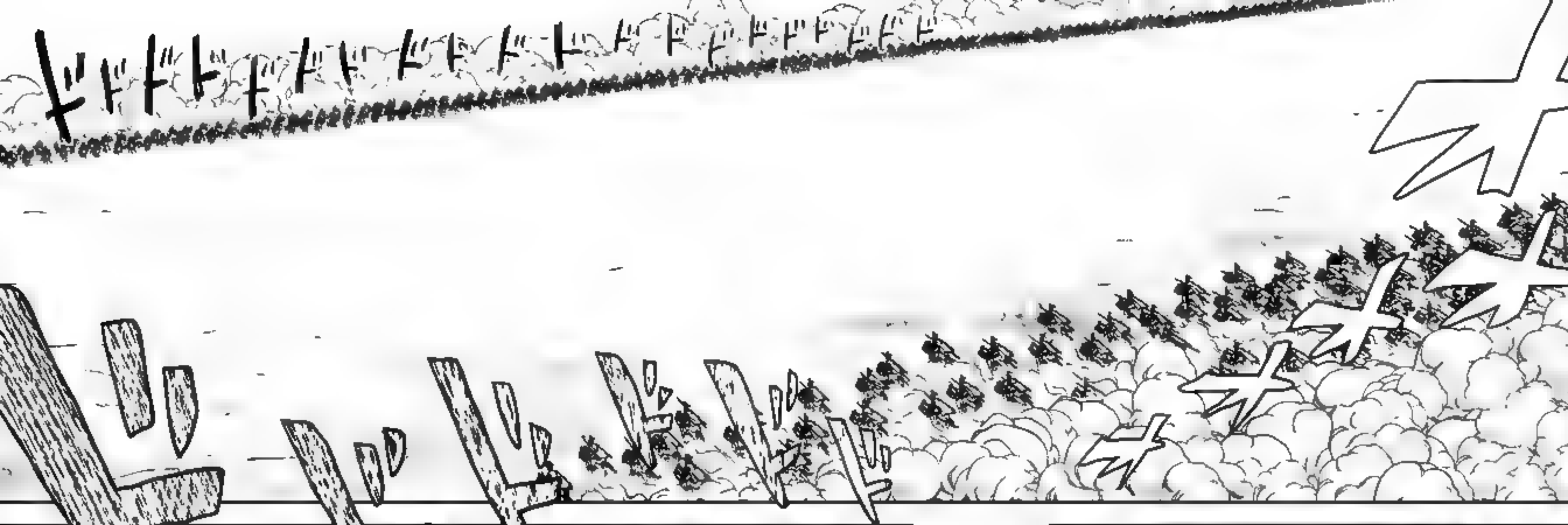
THEY'RE
COMING
BACK!

HUH?! I'M
NOT SAFE
AT ALL!

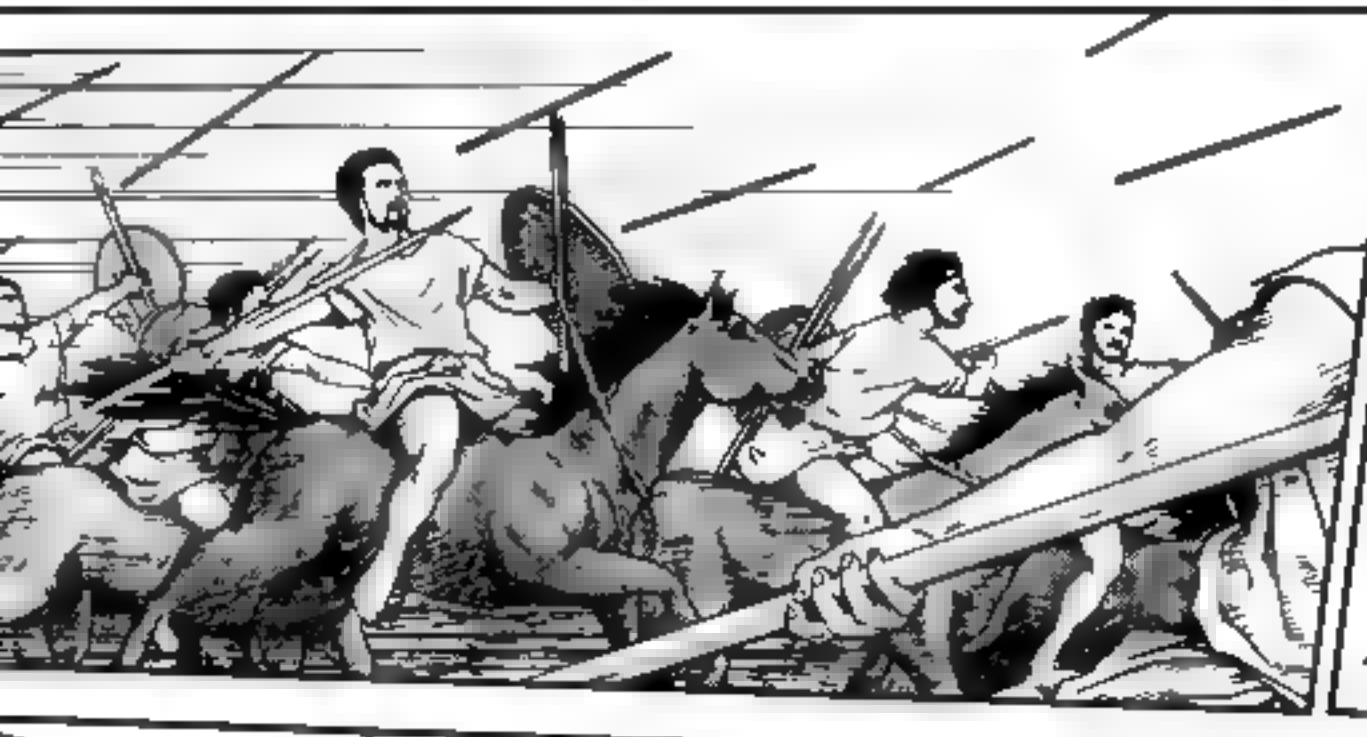


IF WE DON'T DO
ANYTHING, THEY'LL
ENVELOPE US!





THE ROMANS ARE GOING TO DISCOVER THE TRUE FACE OF THE NUMIDIAN CAVALRY.



JAVELINS?



NOTHING CAN BE HIDDEN FROM YOU, SILENOS...

I SUPPOSE THE SKIRMISH IN MASSILIA

WAS NOTHING BUT A RUSE MEANT TO PREPARE FOR THIS DAY, WASN'T IT?



NO! THAT WON'T HAPPEN!

DON'T WORRY!

CHARGE STRAIGHT INTO THEM!

REMEMBER MASSILIA! OUR WARRIORS HAVE DEFEATED NUMIDIANS WHILE OUTNUMBERED!





IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
TO CONTROL
THE HORSES
UNDER SUCH
JAVELIN
SHOWERS!

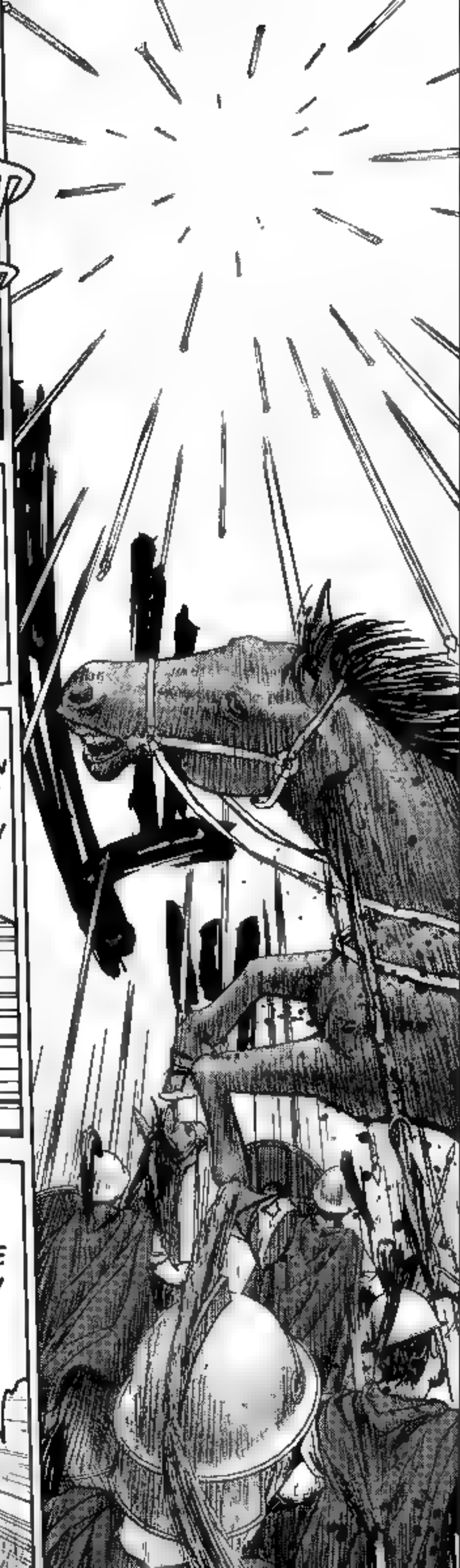


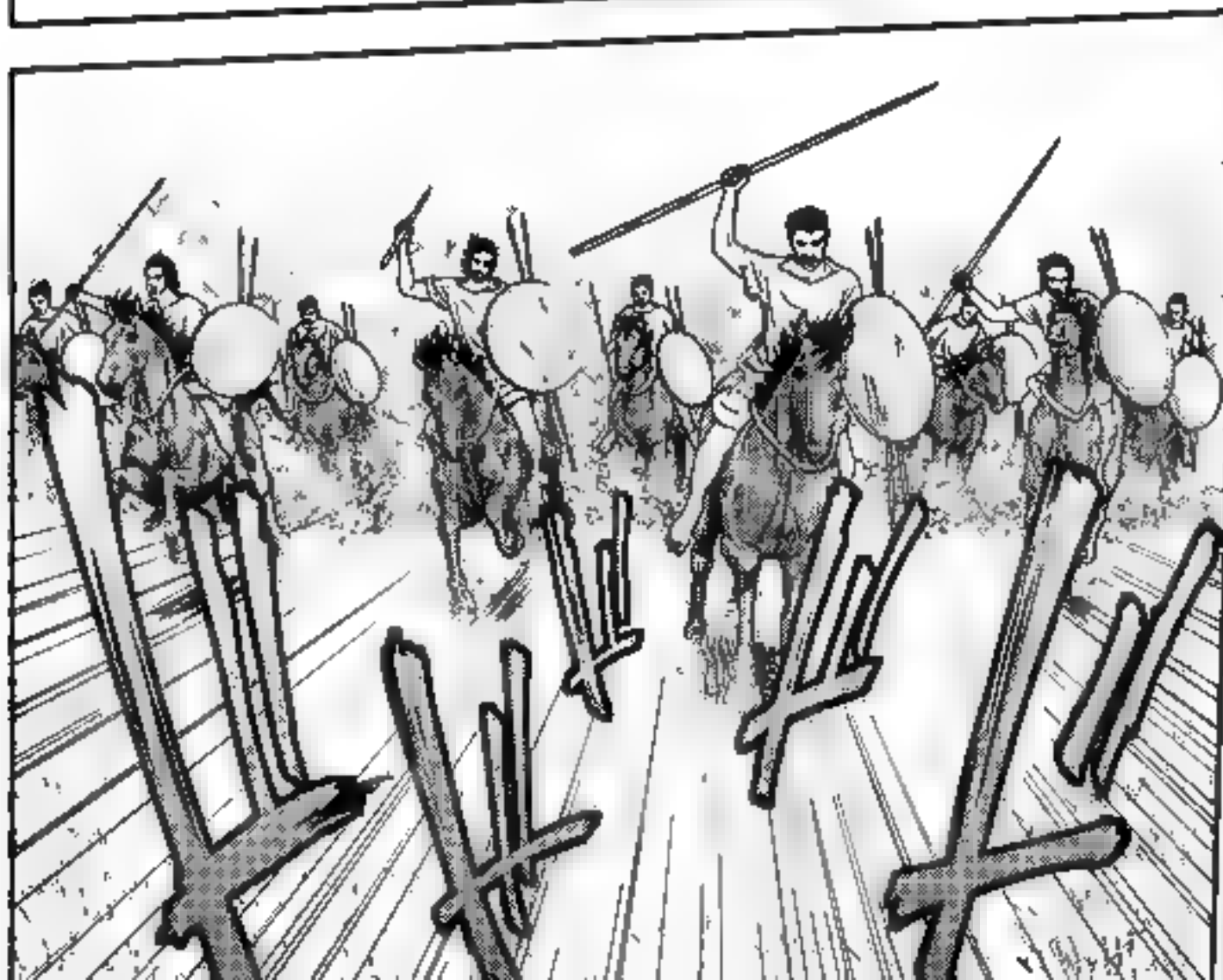
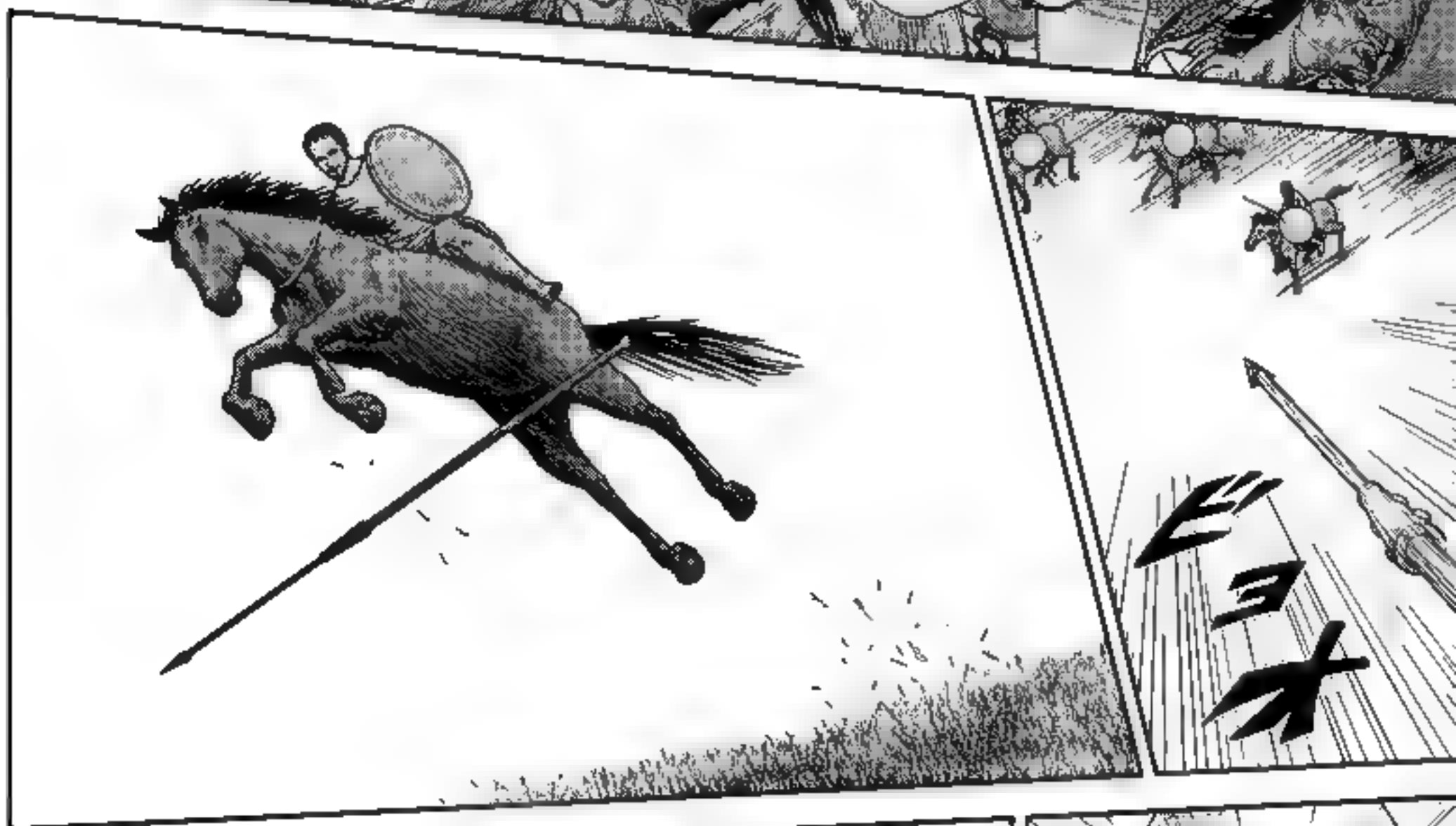
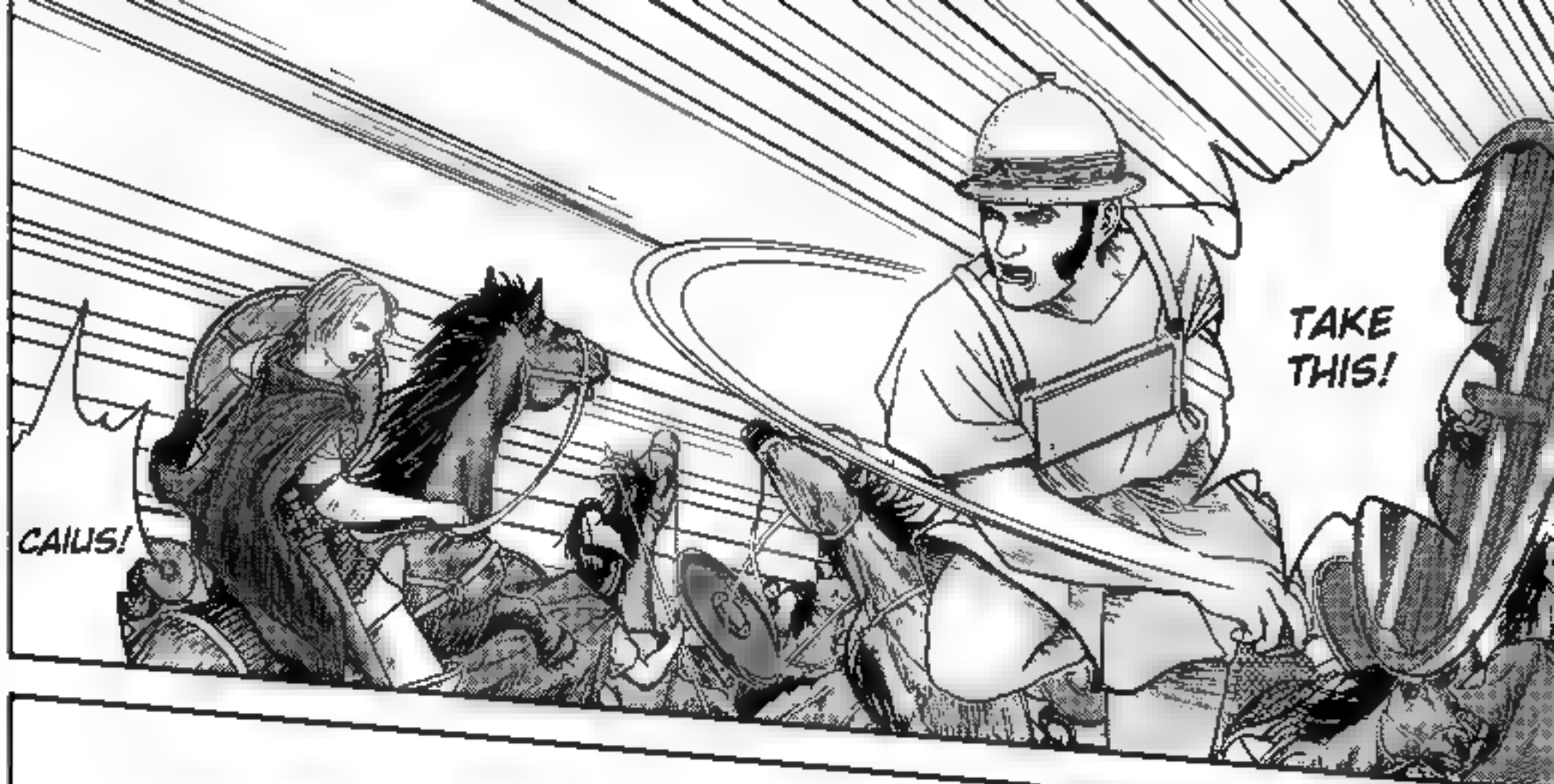
THOSE
WHO CAN
STILL
MOVE,
ATTACK!

ABANDON
THE PA-
NICKED
HORSES!



MAKE
WAY!





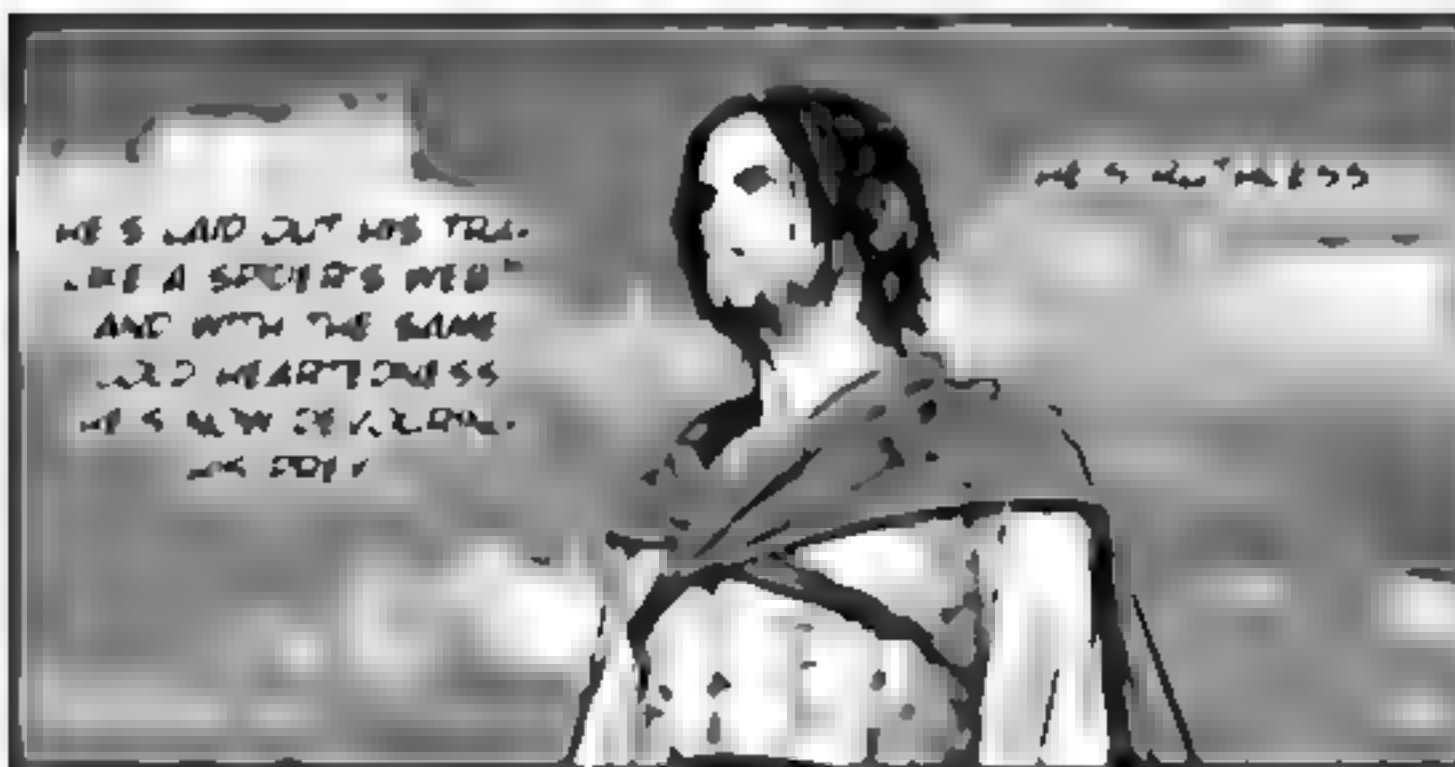




THE ROMANS
WEREN'T EXPECTING
THIS. THE OUTLAW
BROKE FREE ITSELF

THIS
VAST PLAIN
ENABLES THE
MARCHING
TO UNLEASH
THEIR FULL
POTENTIAL

SEEING THEM
RIDE WITH THE
HELP OF ONLY
ONE RIDE ATTA-
CHED TO THE
REAR OF THE
HORSE, THE
ROMANS
WERE A
MISTAKE AND
SHOULD BE
CAUTIONED



HE'S LAID OUT HIS TRAIL
LIKE A SPIDER'S WEB
AND WITH THE SAME
OLD HEARTINESS
HE'S NOW ON A RIDE.
HE'S DONE

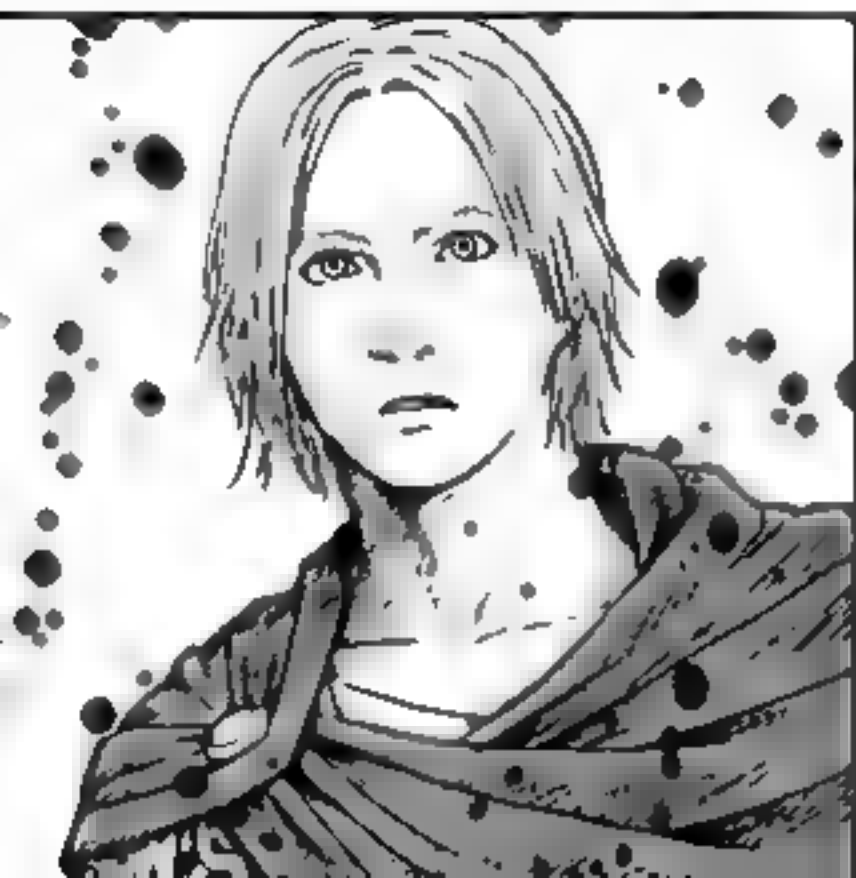


IT'S OVER



EVEN THE
WOLVES
OF ROME

HE'S CAUGHT
IN HIS WEB

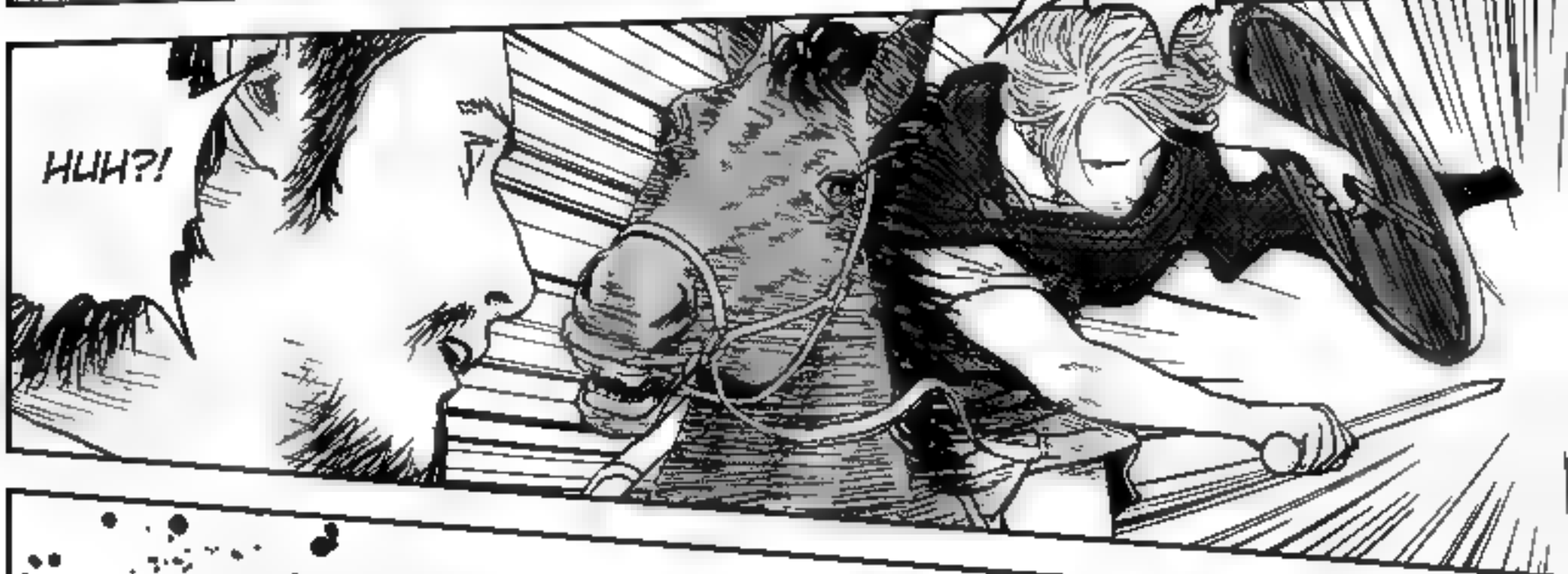




YOU
FOOL!
LOOK IN
FRONT
OF YOU!

I HIT THEIR
GENERAL!
HAHAHA!
I'M GONNA
FINISH HIM

THEN THE
REWARD
WILL BE
MINE!



HUH?!

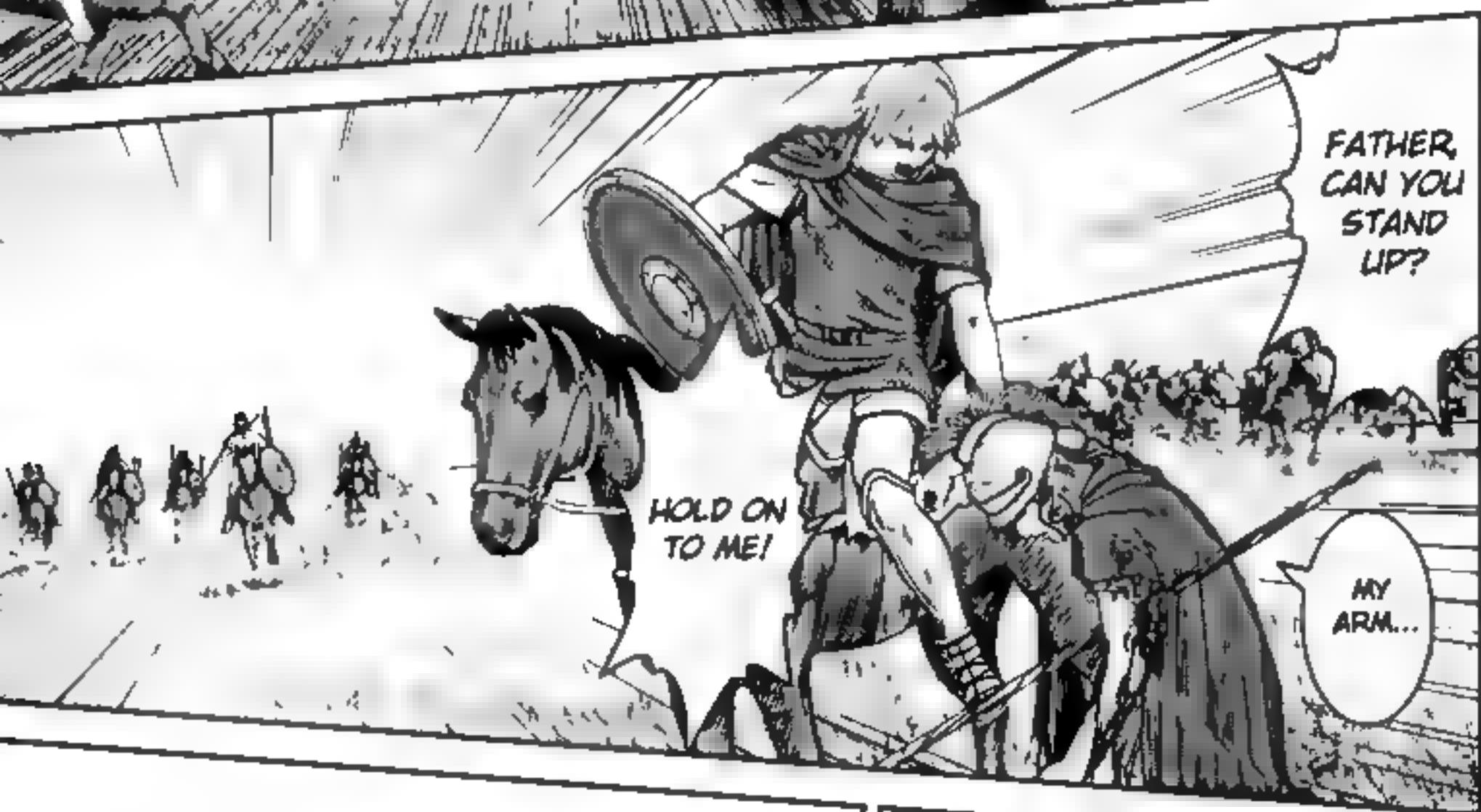


FATHER!



EVERYONE!
DON'T LET
HIM RUN
AWAY!

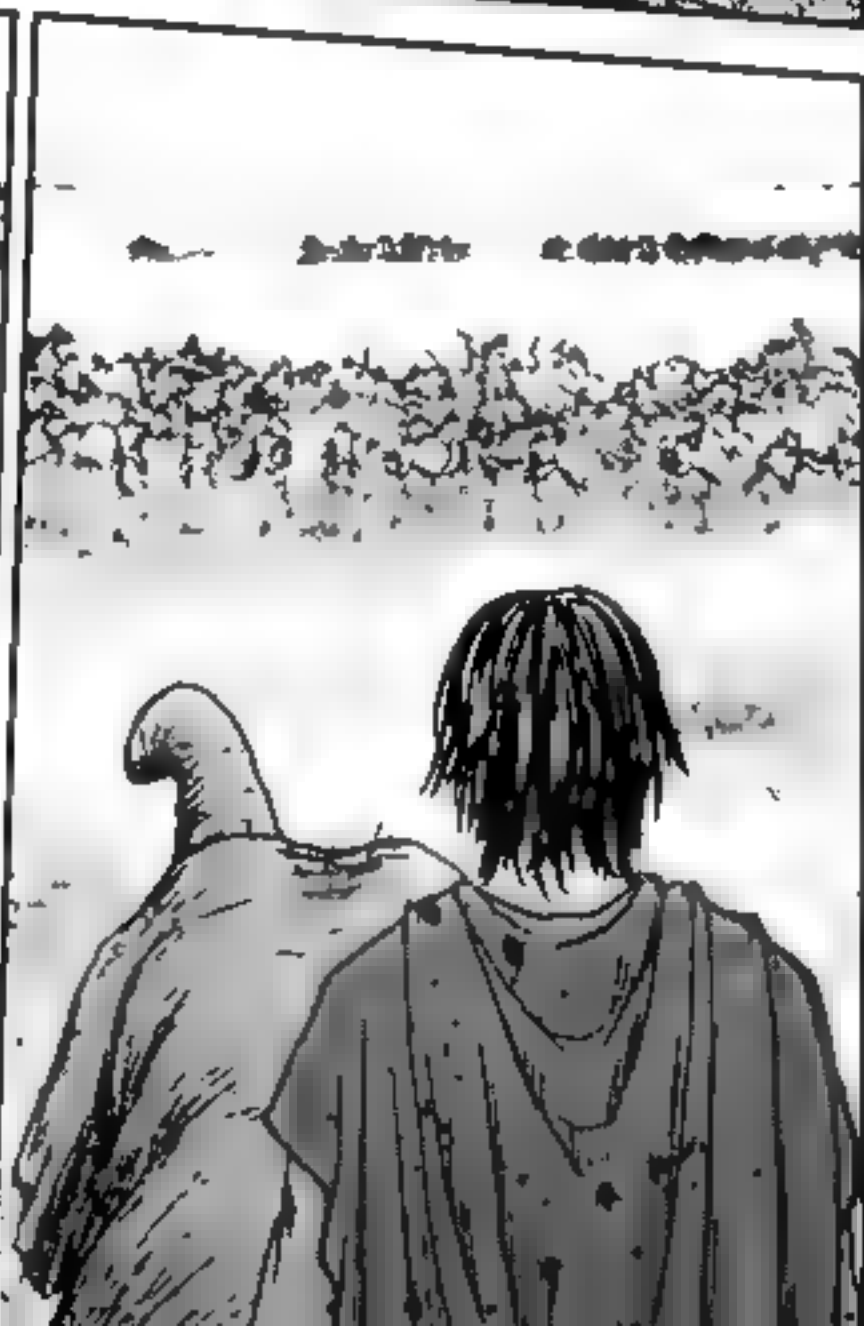
DON'T
SHOW
MERCY!



FATHER,
CAN YOU
STAND
UP?

HOLD ON
TO ME!

MY
ARM...





WE WON'T BE ABLE TO RUN AWAY FOR TOO LONG!



COVER ME! THE CONSUL IS WOUNDED!



WE MUST PROTECT THE CONSUL!

PUSH BACK THOSE SAVAGES!



NO! RETREAT!

IT'S FUTILE TO ADD MORE VICTIMS!



AH! AH! AH! AH! AH!



THROW ME DOWN

I HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY UNTIL THE END!



MY DEFEAT...

WHAT A POOR MILITARY LEADER, I MAKE!

I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING COMING NOTHING!



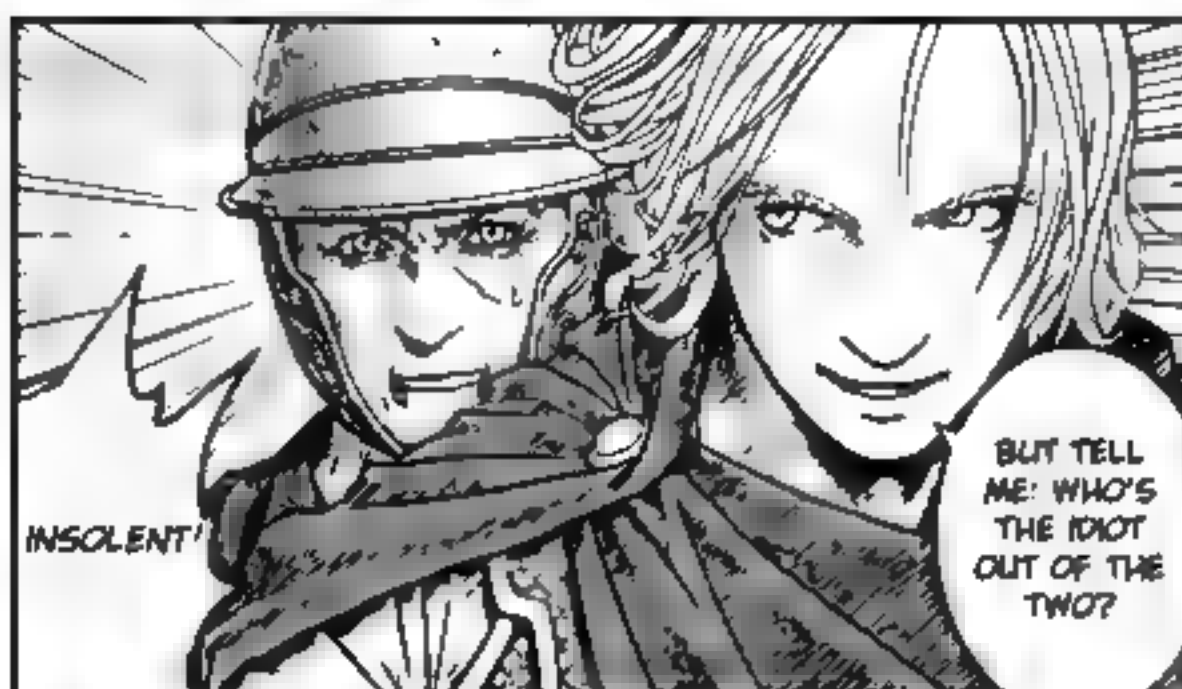
IT'S A DEFEAT ...

MANGA SYNDROME

TRANSLATOR / EDITOR: REBEL

PROOFREADER: SHOREIJULI

AD ASTRA
CREATED BY KAGANO MIHACHI





BUT A CONSUL,
SUPREME
GENERAL OF THE
ROMAN ARMY!

LET ME
REMAND YOU
THAT IT'S NOT
MY FATHER I'M
SAVING HERE



SCATTER
AND
CLOSE IN
ON THEM!

THEY
HAVE
WIDENED
THE GAP

.....

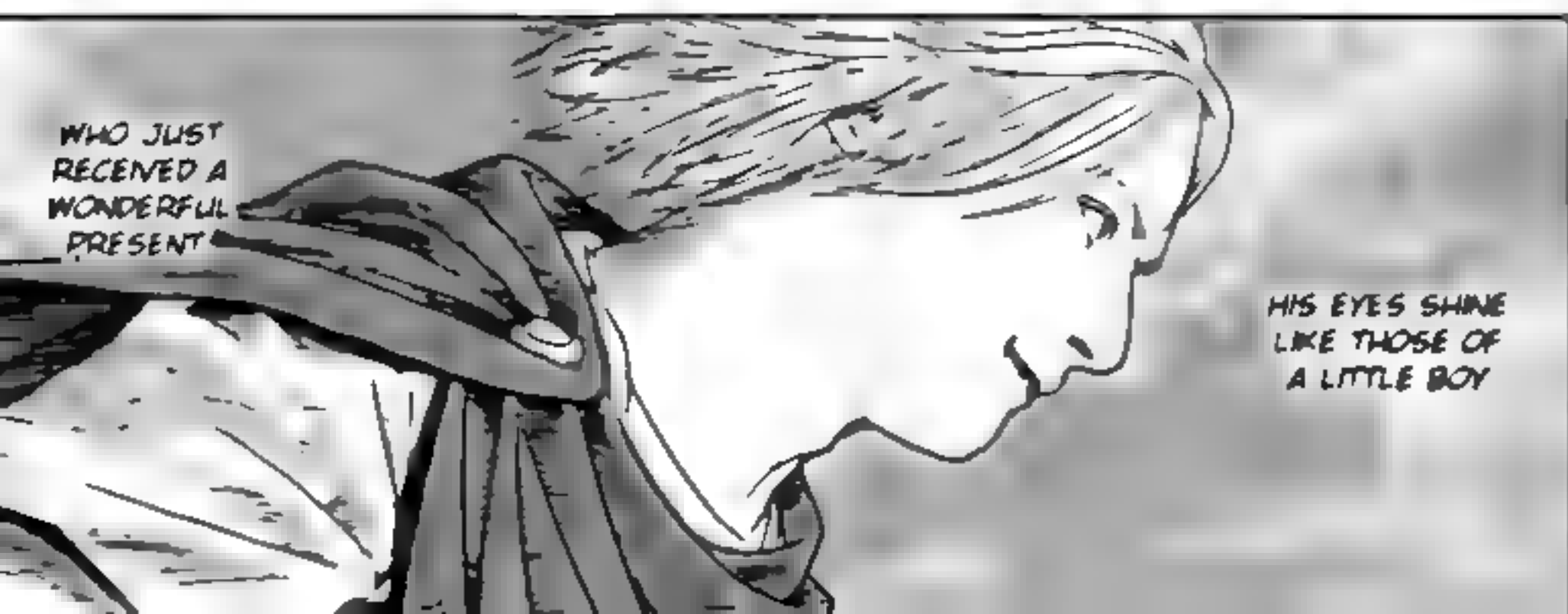
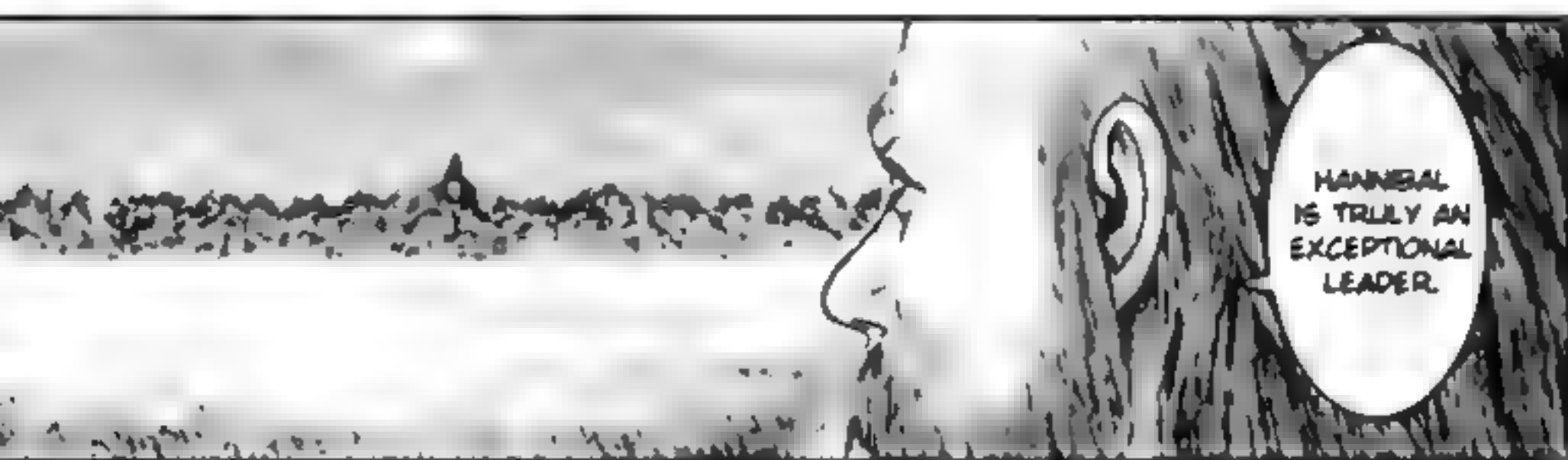
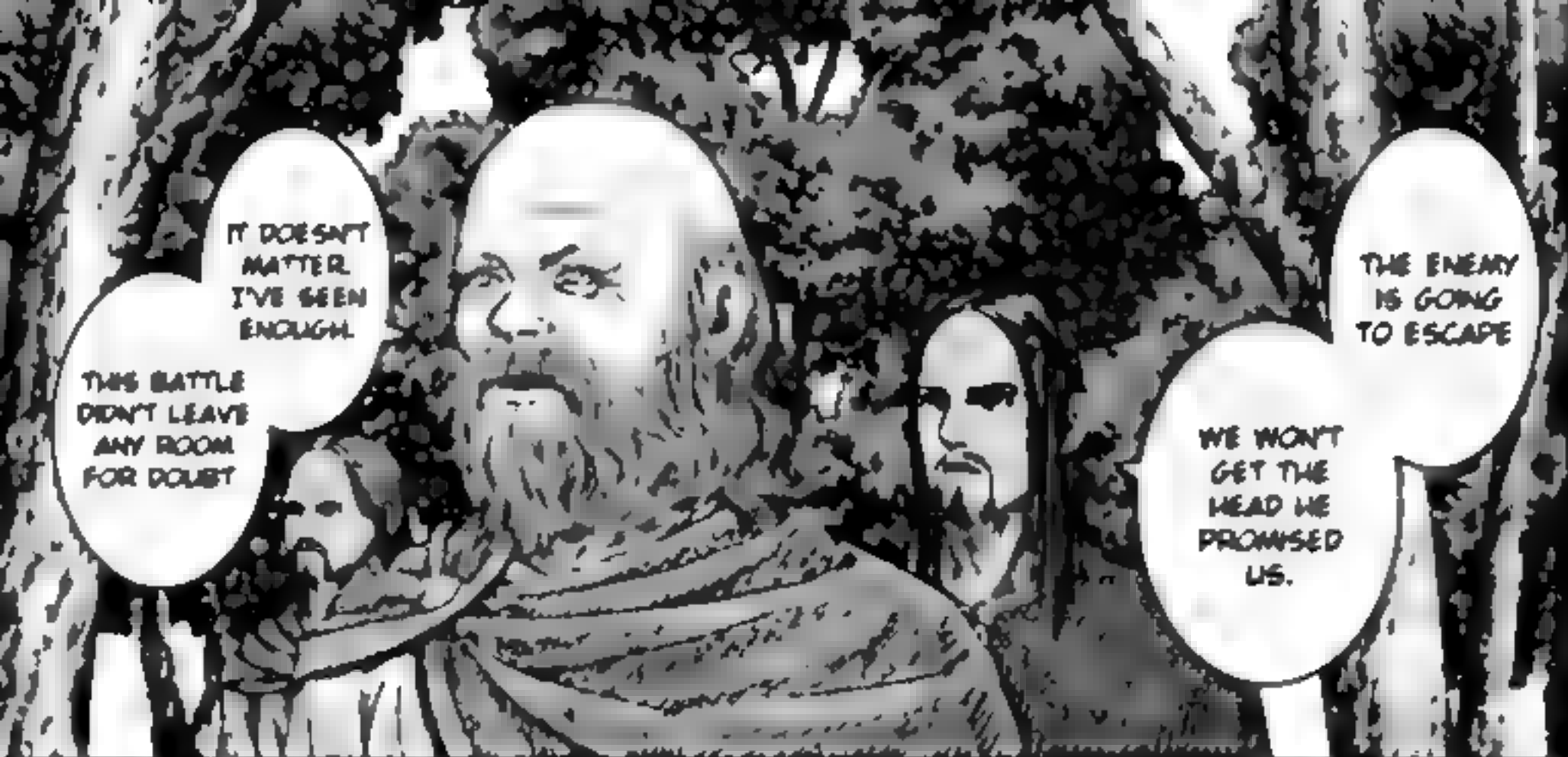


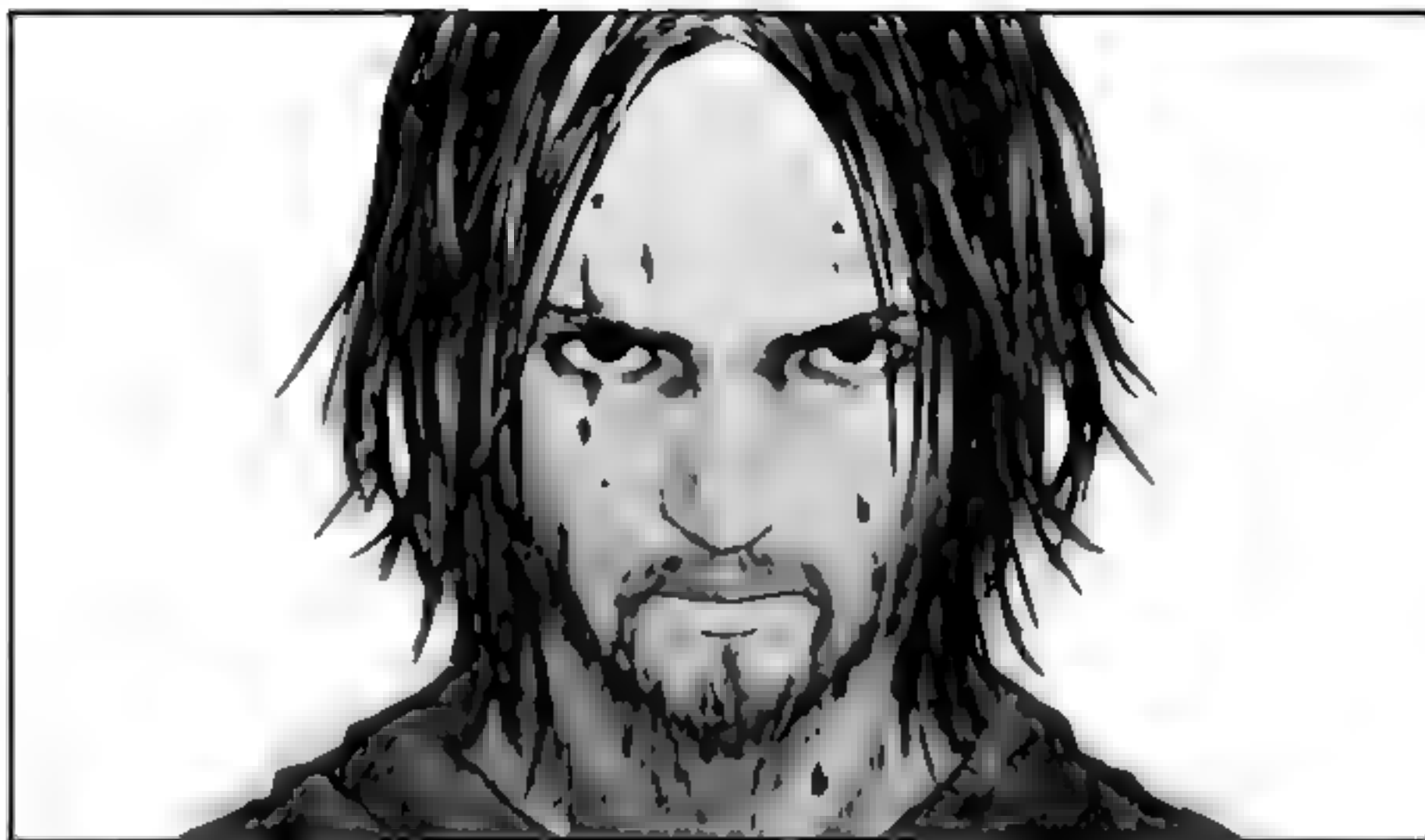
VERY
WELL
BOUND THE
GENERAL
RE-TREAT

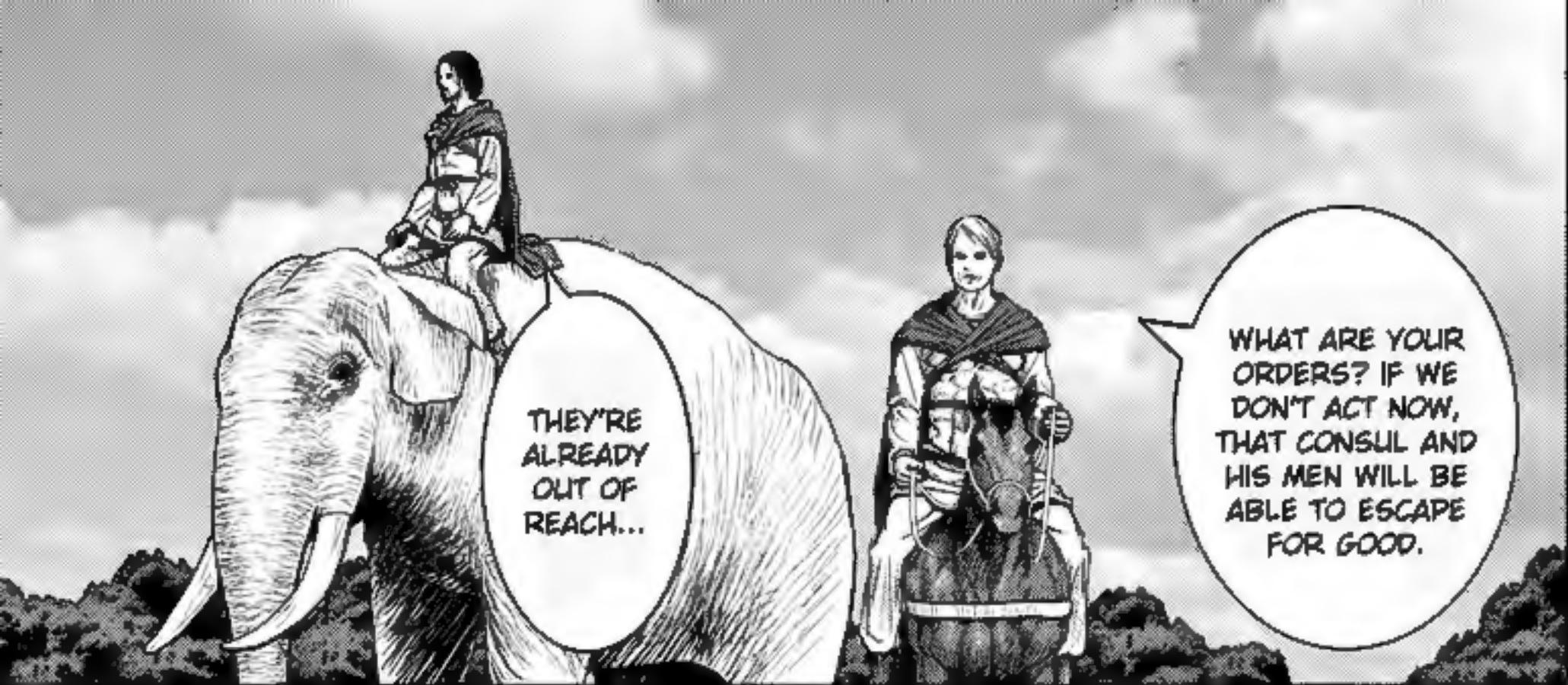


IF YOU
WANT TO
TAKE THE
DECISION
DO IT
NOW!









THEY'RE
ALREADY
OUT OF
REACH...

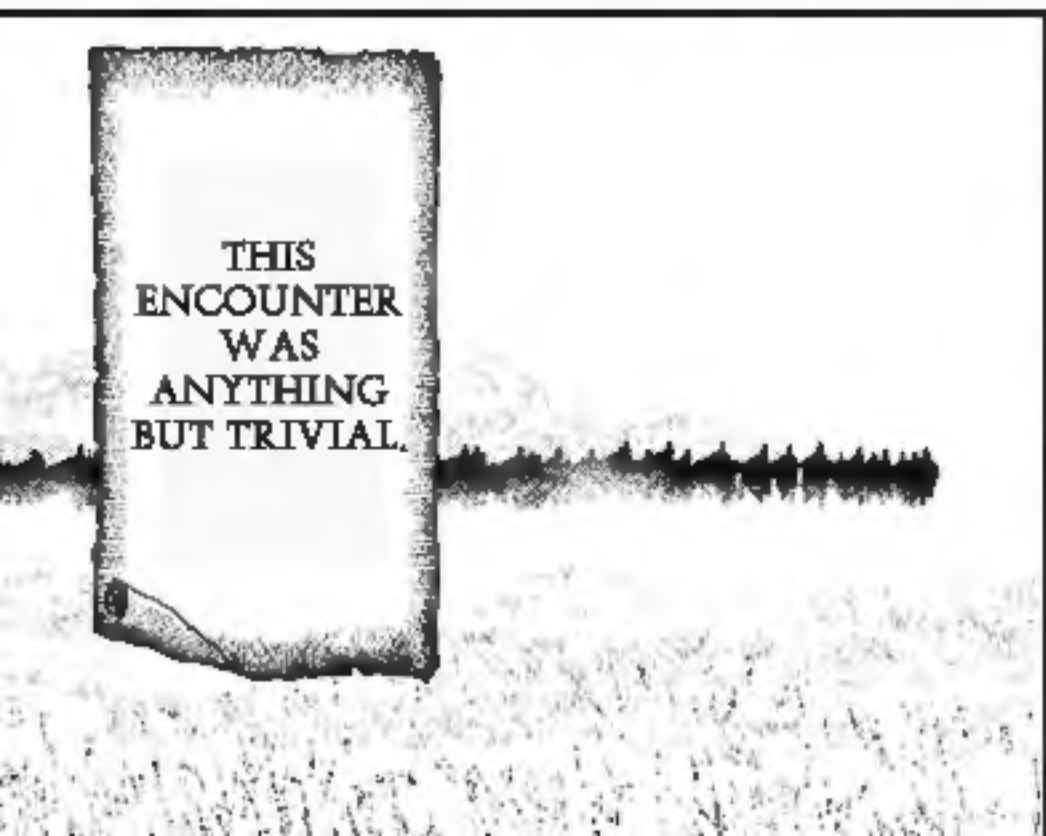
WHAT ARE YOUR
ORDERS? IF WE
DON'T ACT NOW,
THAT CONSUL AND
HIS MEN WILL BE
ABLE TO ESCAPE
FOR GOOD.



SAVING HIS
COMMANDER
AND GUIDING
THE RETREAT
IN SUCH A
SITUATION...

I WONDER
WHO IS
THAT YOUNG
SOLDIER?

HIS HAIR IS
NOT LIKE THE
ROMANS...
HE'S PROBA-
BLY ONE OF
THEIR FOREIGN
ALLIES.



THIS
ENCOUNTER
WAS
ANYTHING
BUT TRIVIAL.



I'LL
TAKE
CARE
OF IT.

THAT'S
TRIVIAL.

HAVE THE
CAMP SEND
US NEW
HORSES.
WE'RE GOING
AFTER THEM.


THAT THE
OPPONENT
WE MUST
DEFEAT
WAS NOT
THE
CONSUL



IT IS ONLY
THAT,
AT THAT
TIME,
NONE
OF US
REALLY
SUSPECTED



BUT THE
YOUNG MAN
WHO WAS
RIDING AT
HIS SIDE,



HISTORICAL NOTES

EPISODE 06: STRATEGY

BATTLE OF TICINUS

The battle was more of a large cavalry skirmish than a battle.
I chose Livy's account of the battle rather than Polybius' because it is simpler.
Both have the same pattern with minor differences.

...At first neither party could see the other. Then the dust from so many men and horses on the move rose thicker, indicating the approach of the enemy. Both columns came to a halt and proceeded to prepare for battle.

Scipio positioned his javelin-throwers and Gallic cavalry in front, with the Roman and the cream of the allied cavalry in reserve. Hannibal set his bridled cavalry in the centre, and strengthened the wings with the Numidians. The battle-cry had scarcely gone up when Scipio's javelin-throwers ran back amidst the supporting troops to the second line. After that there was a cavalry battle, which for some time remained even, but then the infantry became involved in the fighting and this startled the horses. Many riders were thrown from their mounts, or climbed down on seeing their comrades surrounded and under pressure, and it had become mostly a battle fought on foot, until the Numidians on the wings effected a slight encircling manoeuvre to appear to the rear of the Romans. At this, panic struck the Romans, and that panic was increased when the consul was wounded, the threat to his life averted only by the intervention of his son (who was at that time just coming to maturity). This was to be the young man who would have the distinction of terminating this war, and who would be called 'Africanus' for his outstanding victory over Hannibal and the Carthaginians. The disordered flight, however, was mostly confined to the javelinthrowers, whom the Numidians attacked first. The rest of the cavalry closed ranks and brought the consul into their midst, giving him protection with their own bodies as well as their arms, and taking him back to camp, with no hint of panic or disorder in their retreat. Coelius assigns the glory of the consul's rescue to a slave of Ligurian nationality. I would rather accept the truth of the version concerning the son, an account passed down by several historians and entrenched in popular tradition.

47. This was the first engagement with Hannibal, and it was patently obvious from it that the Carthaginians had cavalry superiority. It was also clear that, for this reason, the open plains of the kind between the Po and the Alps were not a suitable battleground for the Romans.

Livy, Hannibal's War, Books 21 to 30, Oxford's World Classics, p115-116.

THE ARMIES: CHARACTERISTICS & EQUIPMENT

This section will be devoted to describing both armies and their equipments. But there is not enough space so I will only focus on elements which are stressed in the chapter. (perhaps I will make a broader profile for the whole volume.) And in this one, we get to witness "the true face of Numidian cavalry" so let's start with it.

NUMIDIAN CAVALRY

Numidian cavalry was a type of light cavalry developed by the Numidians. After they were used by Hannibal during the Second Punic War, they were described by the Roman historian Livy as "by far the best horsemen in Africa."

The Numidian cavalry's horses, ancestors of the Berber horse, were small compared to other horses of the era, and were well adapted for faster movement over long distances. Numidian horsemen rode without saddles or bridles, controlling their mounts with a simple rope around their horse's neck. They had no form of bodily protection except for a round leather shield, and their main weapons were javelins in addition to a short sword.

Due to their expert horsemanship and agility, as well as their lack of armor or heavy weaponry, they were most suitable for harassing tactics, charging in loose formation and lobbing their javelins before wheeling off to escape the enemy's counterattack. This harassing tactic, while rarely decisive, could be extremely frustrating to a less mobile enemy.

wikipedia.org

THE CELTIC WARRIOR (ALSO 'GAULS')

For hundreds of years, the Celtic warrior represented the quintessential barbarian warrior to the settled peoples of the Mediterranean. To the Romans, Greeks and other "civilized" people, the Celts were a re-occurring nightmare that unpredictably erupted from darker Europe. It was a well-earned reputation, and they repeatedly gave the Mediterranean world reason to fear them. Celtic warriors stood a head taller than their Mediterranean opponents and are described as having muscular physiques. The Celtic warriors, or Gauls as they were called in the French part of their range, spiked their hair up with lime and wore horned and winged helmets to emphasize their large stature. Their attacks on the battlefield were fearless, wild and savage, but they were also skilled and deadly. As the Celts spread over their vast range, having conquered most of Europe at their height, their warriors developed different styles of warfare. In Spain, they became master swordsmen accustomed to up-close combat with their short swords. In southern Gaul they developed impressive armor and preferred long swords.

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